



'No room in Bethlehem for Arafat'

JERUSALEM—Israel yesterday said it would bar Palestinian President Yasser Arafat from visiting Bethlehem for Christmas, insisting that he concentrate on cracking down

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

website: www.inq7.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2001 ★ 48 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.17 NO. 16 P15

Survivors' challenge: Fruitcakes

RENO, Nevada—The fruitcake has been a ubiquitous gift during Christmas that it has become the butt of numerous jokes, SURVIVORS/ A12



Kidnappers free doctor's daughter; P16-M ransom paid

BY TJ BURGONIO

THE 14-YEAR-OLD daughter of a well-known doctor kidnapped last month was released after 33 days in captivity, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

Angela Dee Pineda was released

unharmed somewhere in Metro Manila on Dec. 15, after her family paid P16 million to her abductors, according to a highly reliable source.

"Her father was very happy," the source said. The young Pineda is the daughter of Dr. Vinzons Pineda and Delia Dee, owners of the Pineda

Derm chain of dermatological clinics.

Two other sources, one a police official and the other an anti-crime advocate, confirmed the release but declined to say how much ransom was paid.

But the advocate did say that "a

very large kidnapping syndicate" operating in the metropolis was behind Pineda's abduction.

"This syndicate has links with other kidnap groups in that they borrow members from one another in their operations," the source said in a phone interview.

In another kidnapping case, a former kidnap victim questioned the circumstances behind the granting of bail to one of her kidnappers.

Jacky Rowena Tiu filed a manifestation with the Regional Trial Court of San Fernando City, La Union, on Dec. 10 objecting to the

bail granted to Chinese national Zhang Du aka Wilson Zhang.

Tiu questioned the intervention of the Chinese Embassy in Zhang Du's provisional release.

"I can't understand how come the Chinese Embassy is involved KIDNAPPERS/ A3

DARING MISSION

Kidnapped Canadian rescued

BY JOEL ESCOVILLA AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

DAVAO CITY—Lawmen rescued a Canadian and killed two of his suspected abductors in a daring mission early yesterday in Barangay Buenavista, Panabo City, about 40 km from here.

Pierre Belanger, 50, who was kidnapped on Nov. 3 in Davao del Sur by the Pentagon Group, was taken to Malacaniang to call on President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday afternoon.

The Canadian Embassy later issued a statement saying Belanger, who is married to a Filipina, had been reunited with his family. "The Philippine security forces' actions and advice throughout the period that Mr. Belanger was held by the kidnappers were exemplary and thoroughly professional. The rescue operation was equally professional and well planned," it said.

According to the President, Belanger's rescue showed that the

Pentagon Group, which is still holding hostage Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni, is "getting weaker and weaker."

"I'm very happy and I would like to congratulate the composite task force that worked with the Canadian authorities (in the rescue)," she said. "I believe that the killing of two of the kidnappers will go a long way to neutralizing that kidnap-for-ransom syndicate."

Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, head of the anti-kidnapping task force Sanlahi Pentagon, earlier turned Belanger over to Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette, who arrived from Manila in a King Air private jet at the Davao airport's Air Force

facility shortly before noon.

Dressed in a red T-shirt and faded blue jeans, Belanger thanked the Philippine government and the task force members for his rescue. He said his captors had fed him well.

"I'm healthy and I'm OK, but being locked up for seven weeks is not OK," he said in a brief news conference at the facility's receiving area.

Collette also thanked the Philippine government and "all the people of Davao who were involved" in Belanger's rescue.

"We are delighted and overjoyed, as he is," Collette said, adding that the "momentous" event

KIDNAPPED/ A12



RESCUED Canadian Pierre Belanger and his Filipino wife Necitas are brought to Malacaniang for a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Pork-laden national budget roasted, toasted

BY CHRISTINE AYENDAÑO AND GERALD LACUARTA

MILITANT groups yesterday slammed Congress for passing a pork-laden, "non-productive" national budget on Saturday.

"Combine debt service allocation and (the) pork barrel and you get a whopping P365.47 billion in dead investments," said Sanlakas

national president Wilson Fortaleza.

But even congressmen with a reputation for independence defended the P780.8-billion budget, which includes P5.67 billion in pork barrel funds and allocates a total of P359.8 billion for debt service.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno said he saw nothing wrong with providing members of Congress with higher Priority Develop-

ment Assistance Funds (PDAF), the name under which pork barrel is called in the 12th Congress.

"It helps in making both Houses independent from the administration," Moreno said. During the Marcos dictatorship, he recalled, legislators would line up at the presidential palace to ask for pork barrel funds.

"It's the great equalizer," he said.

"Otherwise, all roads lead to Malacaniang."

While he said he could not blame some people for their negative perceptions about the pork barrel practice, Moreno observed that "recently, we can see (the) funds' utilization as judicious."

Besides, he said, the safeguards put up by Congress to control the use of pork barrel

funds were adequate.

The country's foreign debt stands at over \$50 billion, much of it contracted during the Marcos era.

Party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo (Bayan Muna) said the increase in pork barrel allocations was a compromise between Congress and the Macapagal administration, reached to allow the government to restore

PORK/ A12

New singers keep alive Ibanag epic carol

BY ESTANISL CALDEZ
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The Salamon, an Ibanag carol that tells the story of the conception, birth and family life of Jesus Christ, will endure, thanks to the combined efforts of residents and local government officials.

Most of the veteran "Salamonistas" are gone, but a new generation of singers—aged between 20 and 45 years old and trained in the art since childhood—is keeping the epic carol alive in the hope of raising young Ibanag and Itawes to become models of the community.

Aseng Pagalilauan, a veteran Salamon singer, said the traditional singing of the carol in her village of Capatan had been intensified because the community elders were worried that the children might turn to crime and other social ills like drug addiction.

The Ibanag Council of Culture and Arts founded by Mayor Randolph Ting has also helped in the preservation of the carol by financing its annual singing on radio and local cable television.

The Salamon, named after the biblical King Solomon, was written by the Sibals, Taccabans and Binasoys. It is composed of 3,000 lines of rhymed quatrains in Ibanag. It is sung nightly before improvised

NEW/ A12

Baguio house home to 1,001 Santa Clauses

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Nida Soria grew up in Santa, a coastal town of Ilocos Sur, without Santa Claus.

"I had no idea there was a Santa Claus because he was not (a relevant icon) in my sleepy village during World War II. We had caroling, we had fiestas, but we did not have Santa Claus," Soria recalled in Filipino.

"I still don't know why they call my town Santa because other towns have their patron saints and our town is simply named 'Saint' of nothing (Santa is Spanish for saint)," she said.

But devoid as her childhood was of the red-suited, jolly St. Nick, Soria, now 65, has been spending most of her time virtually married to her more than 1,000 Santa Clauses of all shapes and sizes.

Visitors—strangers and friends alike—have yet to connect Soria's Ilocano childhood roots to her new role as custodian of distinct pieces of Santa Claus figures.

These items are part of a collection owned by

BAGUIO/ A3



NIDA Soria lives with 1,001 Santa Claus miniatures, collected by her overseas-based niece, Gloria Orden, for nearly three decades.

Second FRONT PAGE

Cayetano cleared in BW ethics probe

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

THE SENATE committee on ethics has cleared Sen. Renato Cayetano of any wrongdoing for failing to disclose that he owned BW Resources shares despite an ongoing investigation on the alleged illegal insider trading in the company owned by Dante Tan.

In a 17-page report, the committee, chaired by Sen. Francis Pangilinan, recommended the dismissal of the complaint earlier filed by lawyer Jesus Crispin Remulla and People's Movement Against Poverty spokesperson Ronald Lumbao "due to insufficient evidence."

Also signing the report were Senators Juan Flavio, Noli de Castro and Joker Arroyo as members and Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar and Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda-Leviste as ex-officio members. They all belong to the Senate majority, of which Cayetano is also a member.

In arriving at its recommendation, the committee said "it appears that Cayetano did not transgress any of the ethical standards morally required of public officers."

The committee said its inquiry showed



CAYETANO

that Cayetano "made disclosures to (then Sen. Raul Roco) chairperson of the committee on banks, financial institutions" that he acquired BW shares and had sold 75 percent of his holdings before the start of the Senate probe on the BW shares.

"Sen. Cayetano's ownership of the remaining 25 percent of his original BW shareholdings... could hardly be said to be due to his participation in the investigation," the committee said.

The report also noted that the Constitution limits the scope of reporting "potential conflict of interest" only to that which may arise "from the filing of proposed legislation of which they are authors."

As such, "Sen. Cayetano was not legally obliged to notify the committee of the potential conflict of interest" because the Senate function was only to investigate the alleged insider trading of BW shares.

In a press statement, Cayetano said he felt "truly vindicated by the ethics committee report."

"We hope the report will finally put an end to all the baseless allegations of improprieties in our private trading in the shares of BW," he said.

Lawyer says family fears for Misuari

KUALA LUMPUR—The family of Muslim rebel leader Nur Misuari has expressed concern over his safety after Malaysian authorities who are holding him have denied any access, a lawyer who claims to represent him said Sunday.

"The family wants to see him. They fear for the worst since Malaysian authorities have refused to allow any visits," Elly Pamatong, a US-based lawyer said.

"Misuari's two wives and children are crying. Please I beg, on humanitarian grounds give his family and lawyer a chance to meet him."

Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar had given assurances that Malaysia would treat Misuari with respect and dignity.

Pamatong said since Malaysian authorities had said that Misuari had not committed any crimes, they should free him when his 30-day detention period expires Monday.

Malaysia said Saturday it would continue to hold him and has fixed a new tentative date in mid-January to deport Misuari back to the Philippines.

Pamatong had warned of a "very bloody civil war" in the Philippines if the 60-year-old Misuari was deported back.

"Misuari will become the rallying point of all types of violent reactions coming from fanatic and non-fanatic elements of the Bangsamoro region," the lawyer said Friday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo Friday rejected an appeal from the Or-



MISUARI

ganization of Islamic Countries for Misuari to be given sanctuary in a third country and instead vowed to put him on trial for rebellion.

Misuari's followers launched an uprising in Jolo last month in a futile attempt to derail elections that ended Misuari's five-year hold on the governorship of a Muslim self-rule region, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Misuari fled after the short-lived rebellion, and was arrested with six followers off an island in Malaysia's Sabah state on Borneo island on Nov. 24.

Malaysia provided sanctuary to Misuari's separatist group, the Moro National Liberation Front in the 1970s and 80s. **AFP**

Desierto accuser cries harassment

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

AN ACT of harassment.

This was how lawyer Ernesto Francisco Jr. described the dismissal by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto of the plunder case he filed against El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde and ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Francisco, whose impeachment complaint against Desierto was voted down on the same week as his plunder case against Velarde was dismissed, said he was concerned by Desierto's latest move.

This was because the plunder case he filed against Velarde was the reason why he is under the government's witness protection program, which entitles him to security escorts.

"I am hoping government will consider

the case as still pending because I can still file a motion for reconsideration and even elevate it to the Supreme Court," he added.

Francisco said he would file a motion for reconsideration with the Ombudsman's office once he gets hold of a copy of the decision.

Since Friday's decision by the Ombudsman, there are still no instructions for the pull out of Francisco's bodyguards.

The Office of the Ombudsman ruled against Francisco's charges that Velarde, through his Amvel Land Development Corp., defrauded the government with its sale of land for P1.22 billion in 1999.

The land, owned by Velarde's firm, was acquired by the Toll Regulatory Board and Public Estates Authority for the Manila-Cavite toll expressway. The sale was approved by Estrada.

The decision, signed by Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio, said the government was able to save money from the acquisition and thus the deal was not disadvantageous to government.

Francisco questioned the dismissal, saying one of the Ombudsman's investigators had described it as a "strong case" against Velarde.

He said Desierto had not even given him the chance to reply to the counter affidavits, which he received only two weeks ago.

The lawyer also linked the dismissal of his plunder case against Velarde to the impeachment complaint he filed against Desierto.

He said the Ombudsman was trying to consolidate his allies and seek support with the House plenary set to decide on the final fate of the impeachment complaint next month.

RP maids' HK dilemma: Take pay cut or be jobless

HONG KONG—Foreign domestic maids in Hong Kong are faced with a dilemma: either accept a salary below minimum wage or lose their jobs.

On the brink of recession, Hong Kong is mooting a wage cut for foreign domestic workers of 15-20 percent, hoping it will be a boost to the local jobs market.

"What can I do?" lamented C. Sarmiento, a Filipino maid who had just learned that her Chinese employers were reducing her salary because the wife was out of work.

"My family in the Philippines need to be fed," said the 36-year-old mother of two.

Like many of the 150,000 Filipinas working in Hong Kong, Sarmiento's monthly salary supports a family back in the Philippines, where jobs are even harder to come by.

The move to cut maids' wages would see their monthly salary fall from HK\$3,670 (\$470) to between HK\$3,120 and HK\$2,876 for a six-day working week, often up to 16 hours a day.

Lucy Cruz said that she had to clean the house of her employers' parents for no extra pay while other domestic workers said they were having to find work on their day off to supplement falling income.

"They have to bear with it," said Connie Braggs-Regalado, who heads the United Filipinos of Hong Kong (Unifil).

"Going home is not a wise option, as there are no decent paid jobs available in the Philippines," she said.

Legislators argued that a cut in the minimum wage was defensible because the economic downturn meant prices were falling in Hong Kong.

An announcement is expected to be made by Feb. 1 next year.

But the Coalition for Migrants' Right countered that the move would do little to revive the sluggish economy.

"A wage cut would do little but shift the economic burden on to the most vulnerable sector of the community and would only pacify local people's anger at the government's inability to improve economic hardship," it said.

And senior diplomats from the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Nepal also urged Hong Kong not cut wages for foreign domestic workers.

The diplomats, in a letter to the education secretary, argued that "nowhere in the community of nations are the poorest and most vulnerable subjected, let alone the first to be subjected, to a reduction in a government-mandated minimum wage in times of economic difficulties."

Drunken cop sacked

DIRECTOR General Leandro Mendoza yesterday ordered the summary dismissal of a drunken policeman for challenging media men to a fight and urinating in front of the national police chief's house inside Camp Crame.

A Philippine National Police press release identified the dismissed policeman as SP04 Victorino Arcadio of the Logistics Support Service.

The same press statement said that Arcadio also went for his service firearm during an altercation.

In addition, Arcadio was alleged to have "arrogantly" said that he did not acknowledge Mendoza as the PNP chief.

The policeman has been disarmed and placed under technical arrest at the LSS where he is assigned.

Based on interviews with Crame reporters, the incident occurred around 8 p.m. on Friday when a female reporter stopped her car in front of Mendoza's official residence in Camp Crame to allow the PNP chief's vehicle to pass.

PRESSURE GAUGE

Gauges Available:

- Pressure Gauge for air, oil & water for fire extinguisher
- Pressure Gauge with Stainless Steel Case for oil & chemical
- Liquid-Filled Gauge for pump, compressor & hydraulic system
- Pressure Gauge for ammonia refrigeration

Also Available:

- Glass Tube Thermometer
- B-Metal Thermometer
- Glass Thermometer for commercial refrigeration use

Quality-Made by
PRO INSTRUMENT CO., LTD.

AN YIAC HARDWARE CO., INC.

527 T. ALONZO ST., STA. CRUZ, MANILA.
Tel: 733-5775 • 733-5776 • 733-5876 • 733-5874 • 733-5779
• 733-5744/734-1890 TELEFAX: 733-5859 Fax: 733-5860

Music & Movie Anytime Anywhere
ATECS

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

- Anti-Shock Protection
- Genuine SONY Laser Head
- ACCDC Battery Capability
- 12V Input for carven & outings
- Digital Karaoke Echo Effect
- Remote Control
- PAL/NTSC System
- Play over 200 MP3 songs
- Plays VCD 3hrs. on Alkaline

4-IN-1 Portable Discman
VCD/MP3/CD/Karaoke

5" & 7" TFT LCD COLOR TV Monitor
12V INPUT suitable for Car & Vans
(Best TV Reception) 5.1 Channel Home Theater Speaker System DVD Player With Dolby Pro-logic (If Speakers built-in amplifier with Remote Control)

Available at all SM Appliances
CD/MP3 without VCD function=P3000 00 6 Months Limited Warranty

Neutron Industries Inc. Email: diycub@edsomail.com.ph
111 Biglang-awa St., Caloocan City, 1400, M. Ma.
Telephone# 3302387 Website: www.workshopbodega.com

together & safe

- Use standard fuses. Never bridge blown-out fuses with wires or other conductors.
- Be sure to use the correct size of wire.
- Do not overload electrical circuits with decorative lighting.
- Use Christmas lights of good quality. Substandard sets are unsafe.
- Unplug the plug, not the cord.
- Turn off lights on lanterns, mangers and Christmas trees when you leave home.
- Never place cords/wires around nails or pipes nor place them where they might be tripped over.
- Cover electrical outlets when not in use.

use electricity wisely!

MERALCO

www.meralco.com.ph
Call Center hotline 16211

We're open Dec 24, 25 and January 1

GARIBALDI

SAVOR THE RICH FLAVOR OF ITALY

Craving for something really mouthwatering? Then satisfy your taste buds at GARIBALDI, the newest authentic Italian Restaurant in Makati.

Pizza, Pasta, Meat, Seafood, Coffee, Wines, and so much more.

All at reasonable prices.

Definitely, this is the place you'd want to visit again and again. So next stop, where else, but GARIBALDI

Check it out. Don't miss the opportunity to be in the slice of Italy without moving from the Philippines.

Located at 1009 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City; Tel. no.: 895-5532

Baguio home for 1,001 Santa Clauses

(From page A1)

Nida's niece, New York-based painter Gloria Orden, who had been "obsessed" with Santa Claus for nearly three decades.

Nida displays the items to visitors every year in the Orden house, which she now calls the "Christmas House."

An average Baguio house from the outside, the place is home to frolicking ceramic Santas, Ifugao-carved wooden Santas, Santas wrapped in real animal fur, hand-puppet Santas, cross-stitched Santas and Santas fashioned after nostalgic German or Norwegian folk heroes.

Orden herself started the Santa displays, usually revealing her updated collections to friends during holiday parties.

Soria said she simply continued an Orden tradition that was shared with "a few friends," but which had since grown to a slew of "friends of friends of friends," who began their ritual pilgrimage to the "Christmas House."

"I usually don't allow strangers here, but old friends bring me new friends, and they, in turn, bring friends, to see me," she said.

'Magical effect'

"Some come for (therapeutic) relief. I had a visitor here two weeks ago who burst into tears as soon as she stepped into the house. The visitor said she was emotionally affected by our Santas. I really did not know her, but I realized that the Santa Claus displays have this magical effect on people."

Soria said "unleashing" her hordes of Santas every year had become her lifelong chore because she had grown closer to the icon.

"Of course, as a teenager, after the war, I began hearing stories about a Santa who brought gifts to children, but I let these pass," she said.

"I was only 6 when (the Japanese invaded the Philippines in 1941). The war was horrible. Japanese soldiers invaded the Ilocos and our parents made sure they hid their daughters from the Japanese," she said.

"Teenage women walked around with their faces caked in mud or soot, so they won't arouse the interest of the invaders. Christmas during those times was subdued and rarely happy," she recalled.

But even after the Filipino guerrillas and the Americans finally liberated Santa in 1945, the town was still too far-flung and too Catholic conservative for an American Santa Claus to take root, she said.

"We sang Christmas carols, but we translated these into Ilocano. I sang 'Naimbag a Paskua yo' (May your Christmas be merry) without a word about Santa Claus. I heard about a Santa in Manila who gave out gifts, and we all thought Manila was where we could find this fat saint," Soria laughed.

Discovering Santa

She said she really "discovered" Santa as a teenager when she migrated to Baguio.

Even her five-year stint as an assistant to the late composer and conductor Redentor Romero in Metro Manila between 1979 and 1983 did not imbue as much love for Santa Claus as Baguio had, she said.

She said her love for Santa grew whenever she shared Orden's elation at receiving a new Santa-inspired gift.

"I have also started collecting my Santas. The

latest Santa I have here is a small box with a huge face. I don't know if it is just my way of catching up to my (lost) childhood years," she said.

Soria said she unpacks all these Santas every September, and places every corner of the Orden house with the icons.

She usually begins with a huge Christmas tree, which she adorns with miniature, and sometimes electronic, Santas, and set according to a Victorian-era or an American folk country design, which Orden had left behind.

The living room has a pair of "Raggedy Ann"-style Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, and a series of miniaturized Christmas houses.

On a small display table sits Orden's cherished 15-set Korean-made series of Santa Claus ceramics throughout the ages, beginning with an 1884 Hungarian Santa, an 1897 Czech Santa and then a 1905 English Santa.

Even the kitchen is pockmarked with small Santa Claus refrigerator magnets, and potholders with Santa's face molded onto hand pads.

The Santa display lasts until March or April the following year. Nida said it usually takes her half a year to wean ogling visitors away from the displays.

Kidnappers free doctor's daughter

(From page A1)

(in) his release," Tiu said in a phone interview.

"I positively identified seven people as my kidnappers," Zhang Du among them, Tiu told this paper.

"(Now) I feel fear, and I'm afraid for my life," Tiu said.

The businesswoman was kidnapped in San Fernando City on Sept. 27 and held hostage in Talarac. She was later transferred to a second safe house in Cavite.

Eight days after the abduction and after her family paid a ransom of P10 million, she was released.

The day after, the police arrested all seven suspects and managed to recover the ransom.

A copy of the note verbatim from Chinese Consul General Zhu Tao Ting requesting the release of Zhang Du and a certain Zhang Xiwang was obtained by the INQUIRER.

"The Chinese government has always held that criminals should be punished and innocent people be protected according to law. The Chinese Embassy is convinced that Mr. Zhang Du and Mr. Zhang Xiwang are innocent and therefore requests the Philippine side to have them released as soon as possible."

In her complaint, Tiu said because Zhang Du is a foreigner, there was no assurance that he will appear in Court during the trial.

Zhang Du's alien certificate registration listed his address as No. 8 Tuesday St. St. Joseph Subdivision, Bacoor, Cavite—the same address as those of the other accused.

Zhang Du's current travel permit is due to expire on Feb. 13, 2002.

Last victim

Last week, Deputy Director Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane, chief of the National Anti-Crime Commission's Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf), said there was only one kidnap victim in Metro Manila who remained captive, referring to

Pineda.

Last week, however, three others, including a foreigner, were abducted one after the other in the national capital region. Their identities were withheld.

These abductions placed the total number of kidnapping cases at 99, more than twice last year's official tally of 48. At least 19 of these victims were foreigners.

But even though the number of kidnapping cases doubled this year, the police were able to crack 60 of these cases, Ebdane told reporters last week.

The young Pineda, a resident of Legaspi Village in Makati City, was seized in Mandaluyong City on her way to school in San Juan town on the morning of Nov. 12.

The girl, a brother and a sister were on their way to the Tabernacle Academy in San Juan aboard a Starex van when a Toyota FX van blocked their path.

Four armed men forced her out, dragged her to their van and sped off.

Pineda's abduction helped prompt the national police leadership to reshuffle its top officials and create a new anti-KFR task force to handle kidnapping cases in Luzon and Mindanao. With a report from Nancy Carvajal

DRAGON FIREWORKS
"SAFE, QUALITY FIREWORKS IS OUR COMMITMENT."
TEST what you Buy, Be Smart, Buy Quality, Buy...
 NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL SM SUPERMALLS
 SM CITY NORTH EDSA • SM MEGAMALL • SM CENTERPOINT •
 SM SOUTHMALL • SM BACOOR • SM CITY MANILA • SM FAIRVIEW
 • SM UCAT • SM PAMPANGA • SM CEBU • SM DAVAO • SM ILOILO
 TELS. 3720878 • 3720846

Simply the best Christmas gifts
 at bargain prices!

Come to **CARTIMAR** this Christmas and enjoy the best Christmas shopping in town!
 You can be sure there's no better buy than in **CARTIMAR**!
 Where you can find the widest array of imported goods, chocolates, food products, shoes, bicycles, AND A WHOLE LOT MORE!

OTHER SPECIALIZED SECTIONS:
 60 FORMAL & ATHLETIC SHOE SHOPS; 12 IMPORTED BICYCLE STORES;
 11 ORNAMENTAL PLANT AND ORCHID GARDENS OFFERING LOW PRICES;
 THE BIGGEST PET CENTER IN METRO MANILA WITH OVER 55 PET SHOPS

CARTIMAR
 THE INTERNATIONAL SHOPPING CENTER
 Taft Avenue, Pasay City, Metro Manila



Air Philippines
 Your home in the sky.

HOLIDAY ESCAPADES

More Convenient, More Cost-Efficient Vacation Packages!
 NOW MUCH MORE AFFORDABLE!

BACOLOD

as low as P^{hp} **4,347**

Bacolod Executive Inn - P4,406
 L'Fisher Hotel - P5,153
 Casino Filipino Hotel - P4,505
 Royal Amrei - P4,347

BORACAY via KALIBO

as low as P^{hp} **6,222**

3 days, 2 nights
 Queen's Beach Resort - P6,222 Pink Patio - P6,497
 Boracay Regency - P8,550 Titay's Beach Resort - P6,804

BUTUAN

as low as P^{hp} **5,286**

Almont Hotel - P5,286
 Almont Inland Resort - P5,549

BUTUAN from Cebu as low as P^{hp} **3,259**

Almont Hotel - P3,259
 Almont Inland Resort - P3,522

CAGAYAN DE ORO

as low as P^{hp} **5,243**

Conchita Hotel - P5,243
 VIP Hotel Cagayan - P5,379
 Lauremar Beach Hotel - P5,584

CEBU from Manila, Davao, Gen. Santos, Zamboanga

as low as P^{hp} **4,747**

Cebu Grand Hotel - P5,021, Holiday Plaza Hotel - P4,816
 Waterfront Hotel Lahug - P5,295
 Park Place - P4,747
 Maribago Bluewater - P5,253
 Waterfront Hotel Mactan - P4,926

DAVAO

as low as P^{hp} **5,473**

Marco Polo - P5,971, Royal Mandaya - P5,497
 Grand Regal Hotel - P5,655, Waterfront Insular Hotel - P5,473

CEBU from Butuan as low as P^{hp} **3,817**

Holiday Plaza - P3,885
 Maribago Bluewater - P4,322
 Park Place Hotel - P3,817
 Waterfront Lahug - P4,364
 Waterfront Mactan - P3,996
 Cebu Grand Hotel - P4,091

DUMAGUETE

as low as P^{hp} **4,926**

South Sea Resort Hotel

GENERAL SANTOS

as low as P^{hp} **5,353**

Anchor Hotel - P5,353
 Tropicana Resort Hotel - P5,476

GENERAL SANTOS from Cebu as low as P^{hp} **4,466**

Anchor Hotel - P4,466
 Tropicana Resort Hotel - P4,589

PUERTO PRINCESA

as low as P^{hp} **5,602**

The Legend Hotel-Palawan - P5,644
 Hotel Floris - P5,813, Asia World Resort Hotel - P5,602
 Asturias Hotel - P5,707

SAN JOSE (Occ. Mindoro)

as low as P^{hp} **3,601**

Sikatuna Beach Hotel

ZAMBOANGA from Cebu

as low as P^{hp} **4,477**

Skypark Hotel

MANILA*

From Visayas as low as P^{hp} **4,611**
 From Mindanao as low as P^{hp} **5,497**

(Manila from Visayas) Century Park Hotel-P5,317, The Legend Hotel-Manila-P4,905, Chancery House-P4,916, Palm Plaza - P4,611, Las Palmas - P4,611, Executive Plaza - P4,663, Horizon Edsa - P4,821, Westin Philippine Plaza-P5,716, Holiday Inn-P5,242, City Garden Suites - P4,767, Millennium Plaza-P4,663, City State Tower Hotel - P4,647, Lotus Garden Hotel - P4,635, City Garden Hotel-P4,585 (Manila from Mindanao) Century Park Hotel-P6,234, The Legend Hotel-Manila-P5,792, Westin Philippine Plaza-P6,602, Holiday Inn-P6,128, City Garden Suites - P5,658, Millennium Plaza-P5,510, Chancery House - P5,802, Executive Plaza - P5,549, Horizon Edsa - P5,707, Las Palmas - P5,497, Palm Plaza - P5,497, City State Tower Hotel - P5,538, Lotus Garden Hotel - P5,526, City Garden Hotel - P5,872

Inclusions:

- Roundtrip Airfare
- Overnight Hotel Accommodation except in Boracay (2 nights)
- Daily Breakfast
- Roundtrip Transfers AIRPORT-HOTEL-AIRPORT except in Manila

PROMO PERIOD: July 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002 See flyers for more details.

- Rates quoted are on a per person basis on twin sharing arrangement.
- Rates exclusive of Insurance Surcharge and Airport taxes.
- Origin Manila
- No transfers for Manila Packages

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.2084, Series of 2001.

CALL 855-9000 / FAX : 851-7922 / E-MAIL: reservations@airphilippines.com.ph

CERAMIC PLAZA
 THE MOST TILES AT THE BEST PRICES

NEW! STOCKHOLM SERIES
P7.25*
 20 cm x 20 cm (8"x 8")
P16.50*
 30 cm x 30 cm (12"x 12")
BATHROOM PACKAGE P2,400.00 ONLY

THESE BRANCHES OPEN TODAY UP TO 4:00PM

TAYTAY, RIZAL
 2200 Cebu Avenue (Pasig) Taytay, Rizal City
 Tel. 892 1054

CAINTA, RIZAL
 89 B. B. Road (near MARIAS)
 Cainta, Rizal City Tel. 892 1054

MUÑOZ
 1207 EDSA
 Tel. 372 4081 • 372 1033
 372 0016 • 372 0011

MAKATI
 2200 Cebu Avenue (Pasig) Taytay, Rizal City
 Tel. 892 1054

ALMANZA-LAS PIÑAS
 2200 Cebu Avenue (Pasig) Taytay, Rizal City
 Tel. 892 1054

ALL BRANCHES RESUME OPERATIONS DEC. 26

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net



EUGENIA
D. APOSTOL
Founding
Chairman

INQUIRER

Vol. 17 No. 16
ISSN
0116-2642

ISAGANI YAMBOT
Publisher

LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Editor in Chief

JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Managing Editor

ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor

ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.
News Editor

NILO B. PAUROM
Assistant News Editor

PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
National Editor

GERRY LIRIO
City Editor

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
Senior Deskperson

JORGE V. ARUTA
Opinion Editor

FRANCOISE B. JOAQUIN
Night Editor

AMANDO DORONILA
Editorial Consultant

MARIXI R. PRIETO
Board Chairman

ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
President

RENATO R. REINOSO
Senior Vice President
for Sales and Marketing

DAVID O. VALDES
Senior Vice President
for Corporate Services

FELIPE R. OLARTE
VP for Advertising

GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL
AVP for Circulation

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Rocas Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

All rights reserved. Subject to the conditions provided for by law, no article or photograph published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reprinted or reproduced, in whole or in part, without its prior consent.

The Man called Jesus

WHO is Jesus Christ? Who is the "historical Jesus" whose birthday will be celebrated by all of Christendom tomorrow?

The "facts" about the Jesus Christ of orthodox Christianity are familiar enough to those who have read the Synoptic (parallel) first three Gospels of the New Testament (Mark, Matthew and Luke), as well as John. He was born in Bethlehem and conducted a brief career of preaching, teaching and healing. Jesus devoted himself to the poor, neglected, disadvantaged and often-despised common people. His radical statements alarmed the authorities; he was arrested, condemned and crucified under Roman law as a political rebel.

These basically are the "facts" of His life. Non-Christian historical sources are scant, and contribute very little to the history of Jesus that is not already known from the New Testament. He is mentioned in the Apocrypha and the Talmud. Josephus briefly mentioned Him in his "Antiquities," and Tacitus, in his "Annals." Suetonius and Pliny the Younger referred to the Christians and Christ but gave no details.

The Christian orthodoxy says Christ is divine: He is the Son of God. Some theologians and scholars contend that the Jesus of the Gospels is a "mythical" Jesus. The most notable of the works questioning the divinity of Jesus are "Vie de Jesus" of historian and philosopher Ernest Renan and "Leben Jesu" (both mean Life of Jesus) of theologian David Friedrich Strauss. Strauss particularly sought to prove that the Jesus of the Gospels is a historical myth. Renan said Jesus was a teacher who wanted to set up a kingdom on earth.

Theologian and philosopher Albert Schweitzer, in "The Quest of the Historical Jesus," sought to cast doubt on the traditional views of Jesus. He said Jesus' exacting moral standards were meant to be an interim ethic to govern the conduct of his disciples in the expectation of the coming of the Kingdom of God.

While Renan's work has been attacked by the Christian orthodoxy, it is actually sympathetic to Jesus. The "Life of Jesus" sought to point out the differences between the historical Jesus and the elaborate ecclesiastical and theological system built around Him. Renan said Jesus' greatest contribution was the spiritualization of Christianity, thus making the Church's cult, priesthood and buildings redundant. His faith was based on the clear and simple lines of the Sermon of the Mount rather than the complicated accretions of the Church over the centuries.

Renan said that pure Christianity preserves, after 18 centuries (he wrote the book in 1863), the character of a universal and eternal religion. "It is, in fact," he said, "because in some respects the religion of Jesus is the final religion... His perfect idealism is the highest rule of the unblemished and virtuous life. Jesus gave religion to humanity, as Socrates gave it philosophy and Aristotle, science."

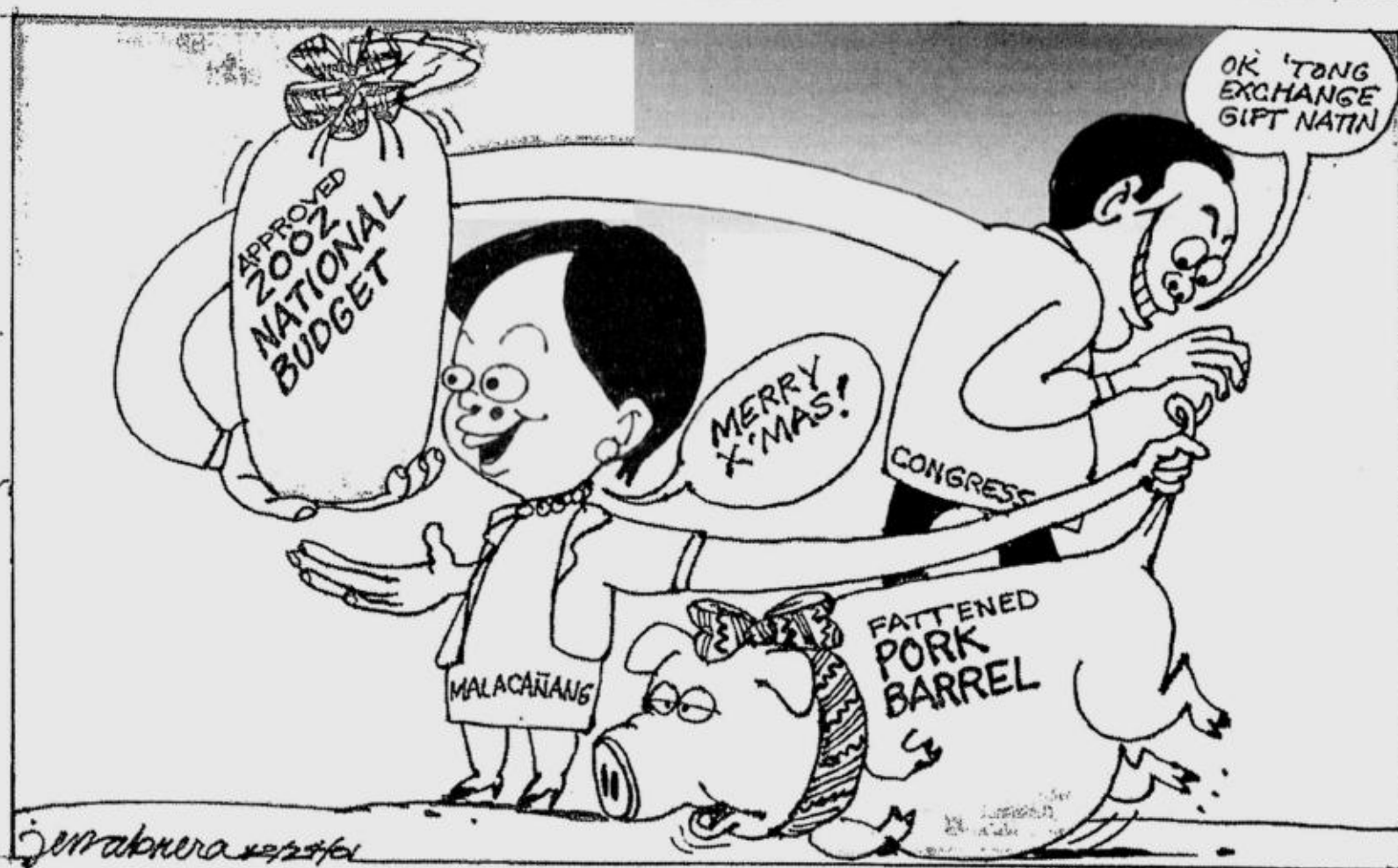
Christian dogma may undergo transformation, but "Jesus will ever be the creator of the pure spirit of religion; the Sermon on the Mount will never be surpassed," Renan said.

Who is Jesus then? Is He the biblical Jesus or the "historical" Jesus? In Strauss' view, the Jesus of the Gospels is a myth. The "historical Jesus," of course, is the person that can be reconstructed from a rigorous application of historical scholarship. But historical records are meager and contribute nothing to what is known from the Gospels.

But whether Jesus is God or Man, Renan urges us to place Him "at the summit of human greatness." Forget about Christ's eschatology—"the Last Times are now here." Forget, if you will, about Jesus' announcement of the coming of the Kingdom of God and his call to repentance. Jesus took over the Old Testament's dual commandment of love of God and love of one's neighbor and extended and heightened love of one's neighbor to love of one's enemies. What can be a more radical exhortation than that?

In his teachings and practice, Jesus placed the highest value on the individual. One of His most striking characteristics was His compassion for people diseased in body or mind, for the morally crippled and for the downtrodden and the oppressed.

Jesus not only preached a new way of God and to God, but He himself lived by these standards and showed their working in daily life, so that Jesus Himself was "the Way." His is a religion of absolute and unconditional love. He lived a brief life but no other life on this earth has so widely, greatly and deeply affected and influenced mankind. The love that He preached was embodied in His life which began with His birth in a lowly manger and ended with His supreme sacrifice on the Cross.



A P1.5-B scam in the making

AS I SEE IT



Neal H. Cruz

TODAY being Christmas Eve, we should dwell on happy thoughts. But the story I am about to tell is, I am sorry to say, not happy at all, not fit to be told this Christmas Eve. In fact, it is downright disgusting, and should send some people to Death Row for plunder.

But it is so urgent that I feel it cannot wait; it has to be told right away. For the scam could cost the taxpayers and the government more than P1 billion.

A few days ago, there appeared in the newspapers a press release from the Department of Finance that Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had approved the payment of P6.5 billion to SGS, the European company that had a contract with the Bureau of Customs to inspect shipments before being shipped to the Philippines. Camacho said SGS had agreed to a reduction of something like P300 million from its claim. So it appeared as though we are getting a bargain and we should be happy.

But no, we're not getting a bargain, we are being ripped off. The original claim of SGS was only P5 billion. So where did the extra P1.5 billion come from? And who would benefit from it?

Look at the records, look at the newspaper clippings. The SGS claim for work done was only P5 billion. Of that, only more than P2 billion has been approved by the customs special committee reviewing the claims. The balance of P3 billion was being questioned for double billing, for being below the \$500 minimum, and other shortcomings. In fact, that was probably one of the reasons Emma Rosqueta, chair of the committee, was replaced, illegally, by a customs broker, Gil M. Valera, as deputy commissioner for revenue collection and monitoring.

Rosqueta went to court. She is a career civil service eligible who rose from the ranks in the Bureau of Customs. There is no graft case against her. She was not being given any assignment. She was being fired without cause or due process in violation of the laws of the land.

The regional trial court of Manila issued a writ of preliminary injunction enjoining Camacho and Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva "from implementing or enforcing the appointment of respondent Gil Valera to the position of Customs Deputy Commissioner for Revenue Collection and Monitoring and respondent Gil Valera from assuming the said office or exercising its functions."

The respondent went to the Court of Appeals which issued a 60-day temporary restraining order to the injunction and Valera was able to replace Rosqueta. During the effectivity of the TRO, however, Rosqueta was replaced as chair of the special committee reviewing the SGS claims. She was replaced by a 70-year-old deputy commissioner who should have retired a long time ago. During that brief period that the overstaying deputy was chair of the committee, the entire SGS claim was suddenly approved. Villanueva and Camacho lost no time in approving the committee's recommendation. When the TRO of the Court of Appeals expired and the injunction of the Manila RTC was again in place, putting Rosqueta back in her position, the SGS claim was already a done deal. And in the trip of the documents from the Bureau of Customs to the Department of Finance, the SGS claim of P5 billion had mysteriously ballooned to P6.5 billion!

The overprice is not P1 million or 10 million or even P100 million. It is one-and-one-half billion pesos, P1.5 billion! Imagine how many millions of taxpayers will have to pay how much each to collect that much money. And how many homes,

schoolhouses, health centers or kilometers of roads so much money will build. But we are giving that away as a bonus. The government has a ballooning budget deficit and can't collect enough revenues to pay for its expenses, but here it is giving away P1.5 billion for nothing.

I stand corrected on that last one. It is probably not "for nothing." The overprice will probably not go to the SGS at all but to the campaign fund of you-know-who.

This is such a big scam that the Senate has no choice but to investigate it (but not the blue ribbon committee, please). Failing to do so would be an abdication of its duty. Will it just stand by and do nothing while P1.5 billion of the people's money is stolen?

Meanwhile, officials of the Bureau of Customs continue to violate the country's laws. In spite of the injunction issued by the Manila RTC, Gil M. Valera continues to perform the duties of Deputy Commissioner Rosqueta. While she has been restored to her office, her functions and duties are illegally being performed by Valera. This is clearly contempt of court.

There are now actually two deputy customs commissioner for revenue collection and monitoring—one legitimate, the other illegitimate. They are both being paid with public funds. Villanueva is committing estafa through misappropriation of public funds by paying the illegitimate, the bogus deputy commissioner, Valera.

Why is Villanueva doing this? Why is he allowing Malacañang to use him at the risk of penalties? Because, according to a customs insider, he is working for another extension of his term of office. Villanueva is past retirement age, but his term was extended, perhaps to consummate the SGS claim. Now that it is on the way to consummation (if the guardians of the people don't stop it), he wants his reward: another extension.

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

Survival Christmas

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

There's one other thing allied with wine and song, but that's another story, or occasion.

4. Watch a movie in the Metro Manila Film Festival. Of course, that involves shelling out a few bucks, but movies are still the cheapest form of entertainment in these parts. And over the last couple of years, the MMFF has offered very good value for money. Last year's crop was tremendous, and so is this year's. There's still magic in movies that you watch on the big screen that you won't get from a VCD, pirated or not.

5. Better still, watch all the movies in the Metro Manila Film Festival. You do not support good Filipino movies, you have no business complaining about Filipino moviemakers not making quality movies. You can be sure the movies showing in the Metro Manila Film Festival are top caliber because they have been the objects of protest lately by the moral terrorists. Their quality rises in direct proportion to the vituperation the moral terrorists have thrown at them. Two movies are eminently worth watching in that respect: Joel Lamangan's "Hubog" and Tikoy Aguiluz's "Tatarin," which is the movie version of Nick Joaquin's "The Summer Solstice," movies that almost did not make it to the Filmfest after being threatened with an "X."

6. Even better still, read. Talking of Nick Joaquin, all his stories, poems, play, essays and journalistic pieces are worth reading. He is not one of our National Artists for Literature for nothing. One might have a case for saying he is *primo inter pares*, first among equals.

There is one thing more magical than watching a movie, and that is reading. Quite serendipitously, two recent movies should encourage people to go in that direction: "Harry

Potter" and "Lord of the Rings." The second, J.R.R. Tolkien's magnificent trilogy should be available in bookstores—or in libraries, for those who cannot afford to buy them. Both have to do with magic and sorcery. And both work magic and sorcery by seducing people to reading. The long holidays are an open invitation to the fabulous world of books.

7. Count your blessings. Instead of sheep, the lyrics of the song go on to say: A nice thought, even if counting your blessings won't put you to sleep in this country—sheep are more plentiful. But you see how badly things are for the poor of this country—"Edsa III" was the social volcano exploding—and you know some people are so much worse off than you. Better still, don't just count your blessings, find a way to spread them. Not just as a matter of benevolence, but as a matter of justice. But I'll leave that for next year.

8. Discover the joys of the spirit. Some people may wish to go to the Misa de Gallo or pray, others may just wish to pause and reflect on whatever it is they want to pause or reflect on. There is such a thing as the soul, which needs nourishment, too, and which is ironically famished during Christmas, the season most devoted to eating. You don't have to be religious to be deeply spiritual. I didn't hear that from a heathen, I heard that from a Catholic bishop.

9. Do nothing. Which is what I intend to do, which is why I am writing these columns furiously. A friend once told me he knew something had gotten very wrong with him when he went on a vacation to the province and took the wheel from the driver after fidgeting at the back for some time. "I thought you wanted to relax," his companion said. "That's right," he said. "But I can't relax while—relaxing."

For some people doing nothing is still doing. But for me, it's absolute bliss. Time to rest the creaking bones—and those who have gout will know that is not completely metaphorical.

Merry Christmas, everyone.

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

What happened to Abenina?

THERE seems to be much to be desired in the handling of Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina, chief of the Land Transportation Office. Reports said he was forced to resign since he learned that he was about to be sacked by Malacañang. Other reports said he had to go after reaching retirement age, while another said it was due to allegations of corruption at the LTO. Still another report said he may have been involved in a coup attempt, having been the superior of YOU officer Rafael Cardeno who was since reassigned to the Visayas. The name of retired PNP Director General Roberto Lastimoso cropped up as his possible replacement. The trouble is that soon after, there was a report from the Palace that he would be given another job.

To citizens, this gives a wishy-washy impression again. If there was corruption, there is a proper procedure for dealing with it. To give Abenina another job after being relieved looks like *wrong-sulong* again. Besides, since Abenina is a political appointee, the age factor may not be applicable. Moreover, he was cited by President Macapagal herself during her State of the Nation Address last July as heading an office that was exemplary for efficiency, and during the LTO's anniversary he was praised again. What happened here?

At this time, we like to look back at what has transpired during the year that's coming to a close and we find that we have so much to be thankful to the Lord for. If you readers are not convinced, you only have to see what's happening in faraway Argentina. We were fortunate to be able to visit that beautiful country, the second largest in Latin America and its third largest economy, last October, and I feel sad about all the riots going on there, which were triggered by a decade-old economic crisis and the political instability that ensued. In fact, over CNN I was shocked to see the police beating up looters and rioters right in Plaza San Martin in Buenos Aires, which is a stately tree-filled park named after the liberator of Argentina, the late Gen. Jose San Martin and surrounded by four-star hotels and high-end shops. In the last few days, the riots centered mainly around the capital's Plaza de Mayo, one of the most beautiful parks in the world, on one side of which is the pink-colored palace made famous by Evita Peron. On another side of that plaza is the Metropolitan cathedral where the stately pantheon of San Martin is found. The liberator of Argentina must be feeling very unhappy about the cur-

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



rent events in his country.

At the turn of the last century, Argentina was the wealthiest nation in Latin America, and like a grande dame who has lived in better times, traces of the beauty and affluent lifestyle of the Buenos Aires of long ago are still there. Despite its economic difficulties, Buenos Aires remains a city of great class and style, as manifested in its love for the tango as well as for the theater and the arts. In fact, Buenos Aires, a city of wide boulevards and trendy cafes, is called the "Paris of Latin America." The Argentine people are warm and friendly, and it's so easy to fall in love with them and their country. It is therefore very sad to see this nation coming apart at the seams, its economic problems piling up on top of its \$130-billion foreign debt. We can only hope that the Argentines will find a solution to their economic woes. What is happening there is a grim reminder to us that we have to take our economic problems by the horns.

But if there is sadness, there is also joy. One of the most beautiful pictures to come out in this season of hope is that of the reunion of American mothers who were pregnant on Sept. 11, and who lost their husbands in the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. The photo appeared in the Manila dailies last Saturday. The widows were gathered together by ABC news anchor Diane Sawyer, and in the souvenir photo they all flashed big smiles as they posed with their new babies. The message was unmistakable: Life has to go on and even as they lost their loved ones, they were happy about the new lives they had given birth to.

Since this is the season of grace and hope, perhaps it's proper to talk of a new foundation that ace photojournalist Mandy Navasero has put up to help sick children. Several months ago, Mandy wrote an article in the INQUIRER about some children and teenagers, led by 15-year-old Jon-Jon Gutierrez, of a depressed Makati

slum, who were suffering from a relatively unknown disease called subacute sclerosing encephalitis (SSPE). This is a late complication of measles, a common childhood disease here. SSPE occurs 10 years or so after a measles infection, and is manifested in subtle behavioral changes that become more bizarre as the disease progresses. It attacks predominantly male children between 5 and 20 years of age, and because of malnutrition and debility owing to poverty, it occurs largely in depressed areas.

In First World countries, this disease is hardly known because children are vaccinated during their infancy, but here it's becoming more prevalent. At present there are 12 children at the Philippine General Hospital's Department of Neuro-Sciences diagnosed with SSPE, and their families are all in need of financial assistance and disease education. Since her article came out, Mandy has been deluged with requests for help from parents whose children display its symptoms.

Since that experience with Jon-Jon, this photojournalist decided to set up a foundation which she calls the SSPE Children Care Foundation. She has asked for me, among others, to join the foundation as it seeks to help SSPE patients at the PGH, working closely with Doctors Aida Salonga and Bernie Chua. What is urgently needed is that children be inoculated against measles, so that the disease would not arise. This is a primary concern and we hope the Department of Health will push inoculation and that some civic clubs will adopt this program. Catching the disease in its early stage is crucial since deterioration sets in very fast. In the later stages, the doctors tell us, any medication becomes mere palliative—to make the patients comfortable.

Generous souls can contact Mandy Navasero at 522-1905/522-5189 or 522-5185, or e-mail: sspefdn@yahoo.com. The PGH patients need donors for IVIG vials which cost P3,500 per vial at Vical Pharmaceuticals (each child needs five vials for five straight days), or as their weight requires, and medicines like Tegretol, Rivotril and Isonisoprene, as well as wheelchairs, Betadine, alcohol, pampers, Ensure milk (for rapid weight increase) and vitamins. There's also need for blenders since most of them are on tube feeding. Please help.

Advertisement overload

IF the people who jammed the shopping centers and the motorists who clogged the streets of the metropolis last week are used as barometers, the economic difficulties that many businessmen have complained about appear to exist only in their imagination.

There is something in the Christmas season that makes Filipinos open their wallets or draw on whatever savings they may have made during the early part of the year to buy gifts for their loved ones. Materialism has crowded out the original religious aspect of the season.

The media—print, radio and television—have been used extensively to further fuel the "may I spend" feeling that usually accompanies the most awaited holiday period in the country. Every newspaper or magazine in the newsstands carries advertisements or fliers that encourage the readers to go out and spend.

Luis Lisa of Cebu City observed that the INQUIRER had not been spared this commercial disposition. Like many other readers, he noticed that the newspaper was unusually heavy with advertisements or inducements to buy something for Christmas.

He wrote: "Why do advertisements have to overpower the news? Look at your issue last Friday announcing the fast of the Holy Father where the advertisement of a refrigerator-filled-to-capacity covered the rest of the page! Is this sound journalism? Or was it an unannounced joke?"

"Why do you not allow the reader to read the news peacefully? Is it not possible that all the news are placed together and the advertisements together also? Your Opinion pages do not admit any advertisement, not even the smallest or as an exception. Is this because your editorial and the opinions of your columnists contain the most important ideas, more important than the news on Pages 2, 3, 4 or the world news?"

"What is the main reason for a reader to buy a paper: to read the news or read the ads? I cannot give you the opinion of others, but you may inform your ad consultants that I do not read any ad that overpowers the news. Why do you punish us when we are giving you our money?"

Reserved space

Before I take up the response of the INQUIRER's sales staff to the reader's complaint, let us clarify the point raised by the reader on the apparent exemption of the Opinion pages from advertisements.

The explanation for the special status is purely technical. The Opinion section is considered pre-empted space. Its pages have been reserved to carry the editorials and articles of the columnists who write for particular days of the week.

From the time the newspaper decided on the contents of the Opinion section, the make-up or layout of the pages was pre-determined. The section is intended to be advertisement-free. No commercials are allowed to detract the attention of the readers from the editorials or columns.

For journalists, the editorial represents the soul of a newspaper. It is the medium by which newspapers express their thoughts or views about the events or issues of the day. While it is true that the way a newspaper presents the news reflects its character, it is the editorial that spells out the newspaper's creed or principles.

With regard to columnists, the INQUIRER believes it is in the best interest of the readers that as many views or opinions as possible should be made available to them so they can make their own judgment on the issues of the day.

Outside of grammar and libel rules, the Opinion columnists are free to write on any subject under the sun. But this wide latitude does not include using the columns to serve their personal interests or writing articles that do not contribute to the enlightenment of the readers. The pruning scissors of the editor will get into action immediately if these taboos happen.

This non-interference policy of the INQUIRER explains why sometimes columnists come up with conflicting opinions on the same issues, and on the same day at that. Or columnists espouse stands different from that of the editorial!

Barring any radical change in the newspaper's editorial policy on the Opinion section, it will remain immune from advertisements or other commercial inserts.

Adload

On the matter of heavy advertisement content, the sales manager of the INQUIRER explained that this is a "phenomenon" that usually happens during the holiday season. Like malls and other shopping places, this is the time of the year when sales are at their highest levels.

He pointed out that the revenue derived from advertisements that announce sales or promotions by stores and other commercial establishments are quite substantial and therefore cannot be ignored. The newspaper will be hard-pressed maintaining its high quality unless it gets ample financial support from advertisements and other commercial notices.

No newspaper can live on subscriptions alone. It needs advertisements to sustain its operations. Without advertisements, the price of a newspaper, if it will be paid for entirely by the reader, will be prohibitive.

At present, if all the components needed to produce one copy of a newspaper—newsprint, ink, salaries of reporters and support staff, facilities and other equipment—are summed up and solely paid for by the reader, the cover price of the INQUIRER would be P32.

The newspaper's cover price today is P15, or roughly one-half of the cost of production. But only P10 of this amount actually goes to the coffers of the INQUIRER. One-third, or P5 (sometimes more), is shared with the dealers, sub-dealers and newsboys all over the country who handle the distribution and sale of the newspaper to the readers.

It is important that the thousands of people responsible for making the newspaper get to the doorsteps of the readers first thing in the morning be kept financially satisfied, by way of reasonable sharing of the cover price, otherwise the INQUIRER will be reduced to scrap paper.

The shortfall in financing the cost of production of the newspaper—roughly P22—is covered by advertisement revenue. And this source of price support goes up or down depending on the financial capacity of the advertisers.

For this holiday season, the advertisement stream appears to be on the high side. Up to when it will remain that way is a big question mark. Going by past records, after the Christmas celebration, there will be a marked decline in advertisement placements in the INQUIRER and other newspapers.

Conceding to the reader's complaint, the sales manager asked for understanding about the heavy advertisement load and expressed the hope that it will not discourage the readers from maintaining their patronage of the newspaper.

Merry Christmas to all!

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascarado Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica



Mindanao's Mehan

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II



responding to the Metal Age of prehistory. However, the presence of stone tools in the caves may associate it with the earlier Neolithic stone period of prehistory.

So far, this is the oldest known chronological age established in Mindanao for human skeletal remains. A radiocarbon assessment of collagen extracted from human bone found from a limestone urn at the Kulaman Plateau in southwest Cotabato in 1964 gave a younger date of 585 A.D.

The significance of the Huluga finds, as in the Kulaman Plateau finds, and in other artifactual areas in Mindanao such as Butuan, tends to point to the early peopling and culturalization of the island. These early peoples may have been the roots of today's indigenous ethnic groups living in Mindanao.

Why did I say that Huluga is Mindanao's Mehan? It is far in form from the Mehan Gardens, a man-made historical site. But like Mehan, Huluga faces the possibility of destruction. Because of pressure (as in, traffic mess) from a burgeoning provincial metropolis, the city government of Cagayan de Oro has proposed the construction of a new bridge across the Cagayan River.

It is a bright idea for the urban blight that is present-day Cagayan de Oro. The problem is, that bright idea includes a diversion road that cuts across an area known as the Huluga Open Site, an accessory to the caves that today continues to yield potsherds and trade ware sherds. Unlike the caves, however, the open site has not yet been scientifically excavated by the National Museum.

Late last year, the city government awarded the contract to a construction company which

began driving piles for a provisional Bailey bridge and bunnhouse even before getting an Environmental Compliance Certificate. Trees in the open site are now marked "X" with red paint, indicating the areas of earth movement. The city government boasts that it passed a measure declaring Huluga a "heritage landmark." But this is a mere resolution and does not have the force of law. Apparently, it even violated its own resolution.

The illegal activity was finally stopped, albeit late, by a cease and desist advisory (not even an order) from the Environmental Management Bureau last July 16, 2001. However, this came only after the National Museum warned Mayor Vicente Emano that the Huluga area is an "archaeological complex which should be protected and preserved in accordance with Republic Act No. 4846, otherwise known as the Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act."

The National Museum's new executive director, Cora Alvina, however, says they have no record that the local government has already applied for a certification, a requisite that the latter is mandated to do. EMB-10 Regional Director Sabdullah Abubakar checked with his staff and they told this writer that they were able to get the city government to agree to divert the portion that cuts across the open site.

The transgression, however, does not end there. The new bridge will land right beside an alluvial property where the caves are. Until now, the city has instituted no safeguards that will preserve the caves for posterity. Not only that, the land where the caves are located are now owned by a DENR regional official. Clearly, this is a violation of the new Caves Act which does not allow private ownership of caves.

Had Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez done what he did at Mehan, when he personally visited unannounced and ordered the construction stopped, Huluga would have received the same attention from the media as the historical sites in the nation's capital.

Comments to montalva@sni.ph

American Negro, Filipino Muslim

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

and true freedom, are steadily distancing the American Negro from the auction blocks of Virginia and the cotton fields of human denigration (a most unfortunately racist word).

And then, there is Colin Powell, the incumbent US secretary of state, a descendant of slaves and sharecroppers who grew up in the ghetto of the Bronx. He rose through the ranks of the military and the federal government, by dint of personal excellence, dedication and self-esteem. He is the personal embodiment of the struggle to make real, that seminal American idea of human equality. Many believe he could have defeated the morally damaged Bill Clinton for president. He is one of America's most admired and respected leaders, black or white.

To produce him, and other examples such as Thurgood Marshall, the first black chief justice of the Supreme Court, it took generations of far-sighted thinkers, leaders and ordinary citizens, black and white, who risked their lives and reputation against the prejudice and narrow-mindedness of the white majority. Affirmative action has taken a century to even make a dent on the problem. But the progress of black people, and other minorities is slowly advancing, especially in areas like sports and entertainment.

Our own Catholic majority and the institution of the Church stand in the same relation to our Muslim brethren, as the white Anglo-Saxon Protestants of America and the institution of slavery do in relation to their black and other racial minorities, including Filipino-Americans. Of course, there is no overt intention to do so, but racism and discrimination have always been a tacit, passive, almost unconscious conspiracy of the many

against the few, of those who are the same against those who are different.

The analogy is more than exact, it is tragically exact. It is a tyranny of the majority which controls all the political, economic, cultural and religious institutions and therefore sees no reason to change. It is religious discrimination here, it is racial discrimination there, it is inhuman discrimination in both places.

Ask any racist white supremacist if he hates "niggers." No, he would say, and shush! We don't even call them that in polite society, don't you know? Do you approve of whites-only neighborhoods where blacks can theoretically live, but cannot? Sure, what's wrong with that? We live in our communities, they live in their ghettos. That's the natural order of things, we can't help the fact that we are more than them in this country.

Ask any Filipino Catholic if he hates Muslims. He will say no. Do you approve of Catholic Masses being said in government offices? Sure, why not, what's wrong with that? We pray in churches, they can pray in mosques, we can't help the fact that we are more than them in the government. It's enough that the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and separation of the church and state. Aren't you curtailing freedom of religion by demanding that the government be absolutely neutral and not allow even symbolic acts of Catholic religious supremacy?

Sure, it's great we finally celebrate Eid'l Fitr, the holiest day in the Muslim calendar, after more than a century as a supposed democracy. But until we fix the seemingly insignificant instances where we still violate and desecrate our own Constitution, we stand no chance of solving our Muslim problem.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo can start by hearing daily Mass in a church of her choice, not Malacañang. Even the White Anglo Saxon Texan George W. Bush does that, to carefully keep separate and inviolate, both his private Protestantism and his public presidency. That is why Bush has Powell, and Gloria's got Nur Misuari. Peace to all!

OUR human culture is prone to giving much ado to the passing of the year and welcoming the new one. The same is true of archaeologists, historians and anthropologists who study the remains and artifacts of past cultures. The older the find, the better. Eventually, a better knowledge of our past should lead us to love our country more.

It is our country's glory, for example, when social scientists take pains to reassemble the giant jigsaw of Filipino culture such as when Robert Fox found the remains of a 22,000 B.C. Pleistocene man in Tabon, Palawan; or as when the bone fragment of the prehistoric pygmy elephant *stegodon* was found in Cagayan Valley; or when modern-day historians such as Ambeth Ocampo stumble upon heretofore unknown details of Rizal and Bonifacio.

In 1970-1971, field researchers of the National Museum explored Huluga Caves in Cagayan de Oro. The finds consisted of human skeletal remains, earthenware, potsherds, stone flakes and some trade materials. Eventually, the human bone fragments were subjected to age determination.

At about the same time, at the University of California in San Diego near La Jolla, an internationally renowned marine chemist, Dr. Jeffrey Bada, was developing a dating method that eventually came to be known as amino acid racemization. The reason d'être behind the method is that all living things contain either the "d" or "l" forms of about 20 amino acids. At the moment of death, however, the "l" form spontaneously reverts to the "d" form. The process is known as racemization. In layman's terms, the amount of "d" form that then stays in the remains becomes an age determinant.

In a highly publicized press conference in the United States, Bada announced the results of his novel method in August 1972. Since then, amino acid racemization has become a reliable method of dating fossil remains, a special science known as archaeometry.

It was not until 1977, however, that the Huluga remains were sent to Bada. Measuring the aspartic acid remains of the bone fragment, Bada's test yielded the chronology of 377 A.D., roughly cor-

MUSLIMS in the Philippines and Negroes in America have one thing in common: they are the victims of discrimination under a tyranny of the majority that should not exist in any just and humane society. Negroes in America have endured centuries of racism and discrimination under the institution of slavery and its long-lasting aftermath. Filipino Muslims have also suffered discrimination under Spaniards, Americans, Japanese and the Christian majority with its series of dysfunctional governments in Manila.

Slavery and racial discrimination in America have always been major fault lines in the bedrock of American democracy from its earliest days. The 1776 American Declaration of Independence carries a line that has inspired freedom fighters all over the world: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..." Yet, even when human equality was the battle cry of the colonists against British oppression, there were already a million kidnapped Africans enslaved to the agricultural economies of cotton and cane in America. There were slaves in all Thirteen Colonies. You could legally purchase a dozen Negro slaves for the price of a good draught horse. Africa prepared them well for the yoke of agricultural America.

It would take nearly a century, a civil war and Republican President Abraham Lincoln's declaration that "A house divided against itself, cannot long endure!" to establish the full universality of the ideal that all men are created equal.

The end of slavery as a legal institution did not automatically translate into full racial equality in America. As late as the time of Martin Luther King and the civil rights movements of the 1960s, American Negroes still suffered from such indignities as separate dressing rooms in department stores and having to sit in the back of buses. These were only the tips of the icebergs of discrimination in housing, employment and the American Dream, from which they were effectively excluded. Slowly but surely, the government's affirmative policies and programs, and their own determined struggle for equality of opportunity

The INQUIRER is a member of the

PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

The National Association of Philippine Newspapers



Soldiers and lawmakers

THESE are my reflections on the contrasts between the legislator and the soldier.

The legislator ranks high on society's ladder; the soldier occupies the bottom rung. The legislator is a talker; the soldier is a doer. The talker stands on a podium and uses his tongue as his weapon; the doer drops flat on his stomach in the wilderness and fights with a gun.

The talker on the podium looks at the masses as a source of votes and then he looks farther into the future and says to himself, "I must stay in power even after the next elections." He sharpens his wit and praises himself with a litany of intel-

lectual achievements like the Phari-see who went to the temple to pray. He sweet-talks himself into the hearts of the Filipinos who momentarily forget the unsolved crimes, our slow justice system, mass poverty, etc. When he wins, he gets back what he has invested—plus interest.

The doer knows that his is just to do or die. Flat on his stomach, with the perils of the unknown closing in on him, the instinct of survival foremost in his being, he remembers his God and family. With firm resolve he says to himself, "I must come out of here alive."

Imagine the talker in the shoes of

the doer. Put a rusty rifle in his hands. Will he survive a fight with an enemy who uses sophisticated weapons? Will he drop his healthy body flat against the muddy ground full of creepy, poisonous, smelly jungle creatures to save himself from a sniper's bullet?

Have a heart, talker. Like truth, the harsh reality of soldiering is ugly. If you are stingy when it comes to compensating our patriots, the soldiers, the least you can do is thank them sincerely for risking their lives so that we may have peace. We sleep soundly because we know they are there securing our safety.

We are fed up with the seeming



goodness of gentlemen in barong sitting comfortably in their air-conditioned rooms while pointing out the notes in other people's eyes. If only this time, they should see the good deeds our men in uniform are doing for us, the majority.

Like us, God loves them, too. The cold fact is they are risking their lives to save ours.—**ROSARIO R. LIBERATO**, 21 Molave St., M. Romeo Village, Sta. Lucia, Pasig City

Students can make war on corruption

IS there hope for the Philippines?

I believe that's the question in the minds of most Filipinos today, and it's also the question in my mind. But the answer to it is tricky. If you say there is none, then you are telling the Filipino youth not to dream and strive for a better future. If you say there is, the next question is how, considering that the Philippines has hardly progressed in the past 30 years.

To be perfectly honest, I'm thinking of going out of the country after I graduate. I do not see any improvement in the government and in our politics. I do not see any improvement in the peace and order situation. I do not see justice being done. Instead I see politicians putting up a show to make themselves more popular when the next elections come, the President's son making movies and planning to get married in Malacañang, debates in Congress, hearings, press conferences. There's too much talk, talk and more talk. Never mind if we are being left behind by our neighbors.

When you talk about politics in the Philippines, corruption is always linked to it. The sad thing is that it is almost accepted as part of the Filipino culture. And it is eating us all up alive.

Let me tell you about my own personal experiences. When I was in first year college, our driver turned right from the University of the Philippines toward Katipunan in Balara. A policeman stopped us and told the driver he had committed a violation. When asked what the violation was, the policeman said he had turned right while the traffic light was red. But anyone who has passed this way knows that those lights don't have a signal for right turn and that cars do turn right even if the light is red. The driver paid the policeman P500 and we were free to go.

Here is story No. 2: A friend who studies at the Ateneo is doing some business on the side, serving as a middleman between foreign investors and Filipino politicians. He told me it is impossible to get anything done without money.

I am sure everyone has heard similar stories. I bet that the reason 40 percent of Filipinos are poor is that corrupt government officials are pocketing money that is supposed to go into infrastructure, education and health. Corruption has become so prevalent that even a righteous individual can be corrupted easily, according to my teacher.

The question is, can we still do something about it? Can we do something about our big problems of corruption and poverty and poor governance?

Dean Raul Fabella of the UP School of Economics once said that to solve big problems, you have to divide them into small problems, and attack them one by one. Maybe we should do that.

I think I know what the youth can do. First, as children, we can influence our parents in minimizing, if not avoiding, corruption completely. They love us and they will listen.

Second, as students and student leaders, we shape the culture of our organizations so we can make sure we live in a non-corrupt environment.

Third, as individuals, we should not tolerate corruption. We can start by not giving in to extortion by traffic aides or policemen.

And we should begin today.—**GRACE VERA CRUZ**, chair, UP School of Economics Student Council, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City

Girl power goes royal

SINGAPORE—It's a girl! It's a crisis. Or is it an opportunity?

The birth of Japan's Princess Aiko has triggered national rejoicing after more than eight years of childless marriage for Crown Prince Naruhito and his ex-diplomat wife Masako, despite some disappointment about the baby's gender.

The long-awaited imperial infant is barred from ascending her country's Chrysanthemum Throne by a male-only inheritance rule, leaving the country stuck with a potential succession crisis.

But as the Japanese are fond of saying, the Chinese characters for

FEATURE

Anne Senior

"crisis" can denote both danger and opportunity. "I think that it is indeed a poor strategy for the Japanese monarchy, the symbol of the nation, to go on excluding women," said Kenneth Ruoff, author of a book on Japan's imperial system.

"The monarchy, as a rule, tends to be of more interest to women, and the spectacle of Japan's first empress in modern times would keep women more interested in the throne for just about the entire 21st century," said Ruoff, director of the Center for Japanese Studies at Portland State University.

Some politicians are urging caution about revising the law to allow for an empress, but the experience of other monarchies suggests Japan has little to fear from a female sovereign and may even be wise to seize the chance to let royal women rule. In the palaces of Europe, female empowerment is already entrenched. Gender-neutral succession rules are the norm in Nordic kingdoms, where Sweden's popular Crown Princess Victoria, 24, ranks above her younger brother as the country's heir apparent. A royal daughter may be a mixed blessing in Japan, but Belgians barely question the right of their newborn Princess Elisabeth to be next in line to the throne after her father Crown Prince Philippe, regardless of any future male siblings.

Some less-liberal European monarchies still give precedence to male heirs but are happy to grant enthronement opportunities to women when the family runs short of sons, offering a potential model for Japanese imperial reform.

Britain, for example, has been letting women wear the crown for centuries without any obvious damage to the institution. European royalists talk proudly about England's "Virgin Queen" Elizabeth I and the imperial matriarch Queen Victoria, whose long reigns are remembered as glorious ages of stability and prosperity, despite some rough patches.

"You only have to look back in history to see we've had many outstanding female monarchs," said Don Foreman, secretary general of the London-based royalist network the Monarchist League. "In fact, monarchies turn up more female rulers than republics."

Republicans scoff at the notion of inherited office giving strong women a better deal than elective meritocracies. But in recent years the royal marriage bed has produced so many girls that a stranger might assume the crowned heads of Europe belong to a hereditary matriarchy. Britain's Queen Elizabeth, Denmark's Queen Margrethe and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands are widely regarded as popular and dutiful monarchs, tapping into a public yearning for a "mother of the nation" untainted by the demands of politics.

Elected heads of state may secretly envy the queens' matronly majesty. Former Polish leader Lech Walesa is said to have noted during a state visit hosted by Queen Elizabeth that "every nation needs a mother," said the Monarchist League's Foreman.

In the media, Britain's royal ladies have often made a bigger impact than their men, although they may have wished otherwise. Love them or loathe them, the wives of Windsor—Diana, Sarah and Sophie—all stole the limelight from their husbands Charles, Andrew and Edward, a tendency which royalists blame on the press rather than any male shortcomings.

While the British royal court may prefer to forget the scandal-tainted 1990s, the public's strong bond with the late Princess Diana shows how a royal lady can attain almost iconic status despite her admitted human frailties. And royal watchers like to quip that Queen Elizabeth's only daughter Princess Anne is the best king Britain never had.

Signs of a shift toward female accession rights are beginning to emerge in Asia, where royalist Thailand allows, in principle, the crown to pass to a princess, although this has never happened.

The Japanese traditionalists' case is also open to question, with history recording at least eight reigning Japanese empresses before the men-only rule was laid down in the macho Meiji era of the late 19th century.

In the 20th century, Emperor Hirohito sired four princesses in a row but his wife Empress Nagako eventually obliged with a male "heir and a spare," laying the issue to rest again.

The X chromosome is in the ascendancy once more after no male birth in the family for 36 years, leading some experts to conclude that the dynasty claiming descent from the Sun Goddess Amaterasu is set for a new age of imperial women.

"The genes seem to be telling them to change the law," said Prof. Arthur Stockwin of the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies at Oxford University, adding with a chuckle: "Yes, there may be some girl power at work there."

In opinion polls and chatrooms, a majority of Japanese support the idea of an empress, although some would rather wait to see whether Masako, who turned 38 this month, can conceive a son with her 41-year-old husband.

Meanwhile, advice from foreigners is not always welcome. One contributor to a debate on a Japanese online news site had this response to a pro-empress editorial in The New York Times: "I think it would be heart-warming for the US to have a female president. Perhaps they could even let a female Empress of Japan assume duties over their fine country."

Reuters

Neda confirmed amended contract for Naia Terminal 3

WE wish to call attention to an article published last Dec. 5 in the INQUIRER, titled "Piatco scam bigger than BW, says Yasay."

This article appears to be misleading. While it is true that under build-operate-transfer arrangements, processes are required to be undertaken before contracts can be substantially changed as was the case with the Terminal 3 project, Yasay was also quoted as saying that the Manila International Airport Authority and Piatco lawyers gave conflicting and false statements on whether the amended contract was approved by the board

of the National Economic and Development Authority.

This is entirely incorrect. As far as the MIAA is concerned, we have received written confirmation from the Neda-ICC that what was discussed and approved in the meeting of the ICC Technical Board in June 1999 was the Amended and Restated Concession Agreement for Terminal 3. Enclosed is a copy of the written confirmation from the Neda-ICC for your perusal.—**EDGARDO C. MANDA**, general manager, Manila International Airport Authority, Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Manila

Making our country clean

BEFORE A NEW year begins, let us stop and reflect on the problem of pollution in our country. Pollution has been with us for a long time and it is still happening today. And here, we are not only the victims but also the perpetrators of the crime.

Pollution happens when we do not throw our trash into the right place. If we throw our garbage into the wrong place, it will come back and affect us through floods and other calamities.

Pollution is a problem, which is very easy to solve. All we have to do is to be disciplined in disposing of our garbage. Trash can build or destroy our country and people faster than we can imagine.

I do not understand what is so difficult about throwing our trash into the right place, when everyone benefits from it. We should all take our part in stopping pollution for it is affecting the health of an increasing number of our people. We should unite in the common effort to make our country clean.—**CAROLINE RAGASA**, 109 Amsterdam St., Greenpark Village, Pasig City



A draft EO, not a deal on coco levy

FR. Nono Alfonso's commentary last Nov. 4 only showed his ignorance of the issues behind the National Coconut Farmers Coordinating Council's (NCCC) initiatives and in the process destroyed Efren Villaseñor's reputation as well as that of the Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Samahan ng Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyugan (PKSMMN) as a whole.

We in the PKSMMN have tried our best to elevate the discussion by dealing with substance while he and other critics chose to besmirch personalities. This could be an act of desperation and it is detrimental to the farmers' cause.

The PKSMMN wants to rectify all the allegations made by the spokesperson of Pakisama and COIR in the person of Alfonso.

Soon after Joseph Estrada fell from power, the PKSMMN initiated a dialogue among farmer-leaders nationwide from March 7 to 9, 2001 to which Pakisama and COIR sent their representatives. On that occasion, the participants agreed to consult local leaders in the coconut producing provinces. It was agreed that the PKSMMN and other farmers' organizations would conduct consultations in 38 provinces.

These consultations resulted in the adoption of an innovative approach to hasten the partial recovery

of the coco levy funds by leaving to the courts the issue of how to define the character of the funds and instead enjoin all stakeholders to work for the utilization of the fund especially the 31 percent CHIF shares in San Miguel Corp. through the issuance of an executive order by the President. This approach was adopted because of the following reasons:

(a) The farm gate price of copra then was at a very low P2.75 per kilo causing dislocation, hunger, malnutrition, desperation, etc. among coconut farmers.

(b) To help calm the restiveness of farmers caused by their frustration over the government's inaction for 16 years. Such frustration has led some farmers to take up arms especially after the Abu Sayyaf succeeded in getting ransom for the hostages they had taken during the Estrada administration.

(c) The problems of the dying coconut industry, on which a third of our population directly and indirectly depend for their livelihood, must be addressed quickly to avoid mass dislocation and discontentment.

There was no truth to what COIR, Pakisama and their spokesperson said about the defunct deal entered into by Villaseñor and Cocofed last Oct. 28 in Davao City.

What transpired on that occasion was the signing of the salient points for discussions among farmer leaders, witnessed by Eduardo Cojuangco and Archbishop Capalla. In other words, the negotiations were still going on.

What the opposers are talking about is not a compromise deal but a proposed executive order drafted by farmers for the President to sign. This was sent to her last Nov. 9, 2001 through Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo.

The PKSMMN does not mislead the coconut farmers. In fact, some of COIR and Pakisama's local chapters signed a statement of support for the proposed executive order, although Vic Fabe denied this without checking with their local leaders.

In the interest of fairness, we call on Pakisama, COIR and their spokesperson to please refrain from muddling the issue. Let's raise people's awareness about them based on the merits of arguments and not on false information intended to besmirch reputations.—**GUILLERMO PALOMERA**, executive vice president, Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Samahan ng Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyugan, 4th Floor, Norfil Foundation Bldg., 16 Mother Ignacia St. corner Rocas Avenue, Quezon City

Conventions and laws against terrorism

SINCE the September terrorist attacks in the United States, the United Nations has focused its attention to the problem of international terrorism. Delegates busied themselves crafting a comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. This despite existing international conventions relating to the various aspects of international terrorism, such as the following: the 1963 Tokyo Convention on offenses and certain acts committed on board aircraft; the 1970 Hague Convention for the suppression of unlawful seizure of aircraft; the 1971 Montreal Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of civil aviation; the 1973 UN Convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against internationally protected persons, including diplomatic agents; the 1979 UN Convention against the taking of hostages; the 1980 Vienna Convention on the physical protection of nuclear material; the protocol for the suppression of unlawful acts of violence at airports serving international civil aviation; the 1988 Rome Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of

maritime navigation; the 1988 Rome protocol for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of fixed platform located on the continental shelf; the 1991 Montreal Convention on the marking of plastic explosives for the purpose of detection; the 1997 UN Convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings; and the 1999 UN Convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism.

The draft convention in its preamble cites the escalation worldwide of acts of terrorism, the financing, planning and inciting of terrorist acts being contrary to the purposes of the United Nations, the condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism and the need to take effective measures to prevent acts of terrorism and to ensure that the perpetrators of terrorist acts do not escape prosecution and punishment.

The draft convention requires each state to classify as criminal offenses under its laws the offenses described in the convention, such as killing, bodily injury, inflicting damage to infrastructure and facilities, any act that aids,

abets, counsels the commission of an offense and organizes, directs or instigates others. It also binds states to adopt such measures to ensure that such criminal acts are under no circumstances justified by considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other similar nature.

Not to be outdone, the US Congress passed in record time an anti-terrorism law expanding the government's ability to conduct electronic surveillance, detain immigrants without charges and penetrate money laundering banks. A draft executive order also seeks to empanel military tribunals to hear cases of immigrants or aliens accused or indicted for acts of terrorism. But this executive order is being questioned by some constitutional lawyers who believe it violates the principle of due process and encroaches upon the institutional jurisdiction of civil courts. They contend that only in times of war can military tribunals validly acquire jurisdiction.—**RAUL I. GOCO**, 5 10th St., Rolling Hills Subd., New Manila, Quezon City

Back to basics on garbage disposal

THIS refers to the column of Neal H. Cruz, titled "Montalban dump will pollute Metro Manila's drinking water," last Dec. 20.

What I know from my studies is that a garbage dump will always pollute not only drinking water but also

the air and land. That is why many countries discourage the construction of garbage dumps.

The best and least expensive way to solve our worsening garbage disposal problem is to go back to basics, meaning the ways of our

grandparents. In their time, our grandparents carried baskets made of rattan when they went to market, and market vendors used banana leaves for wrappers. Our government should control the use of plastics, cans and other non-environ-

ment friendly packaging.

Another way to solve our garbage disposal problem is to use waste for energy generation. This was promoted by former President Fidel V. Ramos.—**OSCAR R. LANDICHO**, orlandicho@hotmail.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Rocas Avenue, corner Yague and Mascarado Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Afghan gov't meets amid bombing row

KABUL—Afghanistan's interim leader Hamid Karzai held his first cabinet meeting Sunday on the first full day of his six-month mandate to pull his country back out of decades of bloody conflict.

In a sign of the tensions that could still destabilize the new UN-backed Afghan regime, a tribal leader threatened revolt over an apparent US bombing error, which reportedly killed 65 people travelling to Karzai's inauguration.

US officials insist the air strike was aimed at a convoy of senior

members of the al-Qaida or Taliban militias, but the head of the Zadran tribe in Paktia province told a Pakistan-based news agency only civilians were killed.

"If the US launches similar tyrannical attacks again, we will launch an armed struggle against Hamid Karzai's government," Gulba Din said, according to the Afghan Islamic Press.

Din said the attack was launched after the head of the city of Khost, Bacha Khan, gave US forces false information about the convoy. He claimed that 14 civilian homes were also destroyed in the air strike.

Gen. Tommy Franks, commander

of US forces in Afghanistan, insisted Saturday that US warplanes had chosen the correct target and were fired upon from the convoy.

"Right now we have people on the ground investigating but we are convinced it was a good target," he said.

Karzai said Saturday that he was in discussions with the Americans about the incident, but he was clearly irritated at the distraction from the work of his new 29-member Cabinet and power-sharing government.

All members of the government—including two women—were present at the first meeting in the

Gul Khana presidential palace on Sunday.

In a speech at his inauguration Saturday, Karzai said his priorities would be to restart the moribund economy and bring peace and stability to a country which has become a cradle of civil war and a haven for terrorists.

"I believe Afghanistan must go from an economy of war to an economy of peace," he said, putting the price tag on reconstruction at "many billions" of dollars.

"We should put our hands together to forget the painful past; as brothers and sisters we should go forward to a new Afghanistan together."

Karzai said he had accepted an

invitation to visit US President George W. Bush early next year.

Sunday's meeting was greeted by a parade of hundreds of Kabulis welcoming their new government, which they hope will end the danger of factional fighting between the opposition groups who ousted the Taliban regime.

Marchers paraded with banners proclaiming "We Support the New Government," before despatching a delegation of intellectuals, including three women, to petition the United Nations over the reconstruction of the war-scarred country.

Outside the capital, US forces were continuing their search for

Osama bin Laden, the head of the al-Qaida network of Islamic radicals, who they blame for the Sept. 11 attacks on US cities.

Bin Laden's protector in Afghanistan, the Taliban regime, was driven from power last month by a combined US and Afghan opposition military campaign, and his Arab fighters have been bombed out of their main strongholds.

But so far US-led coalition forces, including thousands of US Marines and hundreds of US and British special forces, have been unable to locate Bin Laden, amid fears his supporters may launch a terrorist counterattack.

AFP

Jet diverted as passenger tries to ignite 'explosive'

BOSTON—A passenger on a jetliner bound from Paris to Miami tried to ignite an "improvised explosive" in his sneakers, but flight attendants and fellow passengers subdued him, witnesses and authorities said. The plane, escorted by military jets, landed safely in Boston.

The suspect, taken into custody by the FBI, was to be charged with interfering with a flight crew, a law enforcement official said after Saturday's incident.

Authorities were investigating whether the man used a British passport with the fake identity "Richard Reid." An FBI official said the man was not of Middle Eastern descent, contrary to earlier speculation.

After the man tried to light a fuse protruding from his shoe, a flight attendant intervened and the 1.93-meter suspect resisted and bit her, authorities said.

Passengers subdued the man, some taking off their own belts to secure him into his seat, officials said. Two doctors used the airplane's onboard medical kit to sedate him, and the man's shoe was removed.

"When he was attempted to be subdued, he said he was wired," said Thomas Kinton, interim executive director of the Massachusetts Port Authority, which runs the airport.

Passenger Eric Debry, 42, of Paris, said he reached over the seat and pulled Reid's arms back.

"I jumped on his shoulder. Two other guys came and took his legs," said Debry, adding some of the men held Reid down for 10 minutes while others collected about 20 leather belts to restrain him.

Passenger Thierry Dugeon, 36, of Paris, said he was seated about 10 rows behind the suspect, and estimated that five or six male passengers subdued him.

"I was there in five seconds, and there were already two or three guys on him. It was like everybody knew what they needed to do," he said. "It's pure instinct because it goes so fast. You're not going to think twice."

Philippe Acas, 39, of St. Quentin Envelines, France, said the passengers also found two audiotapes in his possession and turned them over to the pilot.

AP

Vote delayed to name new Argentine chief

BUENOS AIRES—Last-minute political wrangling delayed the Argentine Congress from appointing an interim president Saturday night as lawmakers quarreled over how long a caretaker should remain in office and when to call new elections.

The political roadblock came shortly before Congress was to name Adolfo Rodriguez Saa, a provincial governor, to fill the office vacated Thursday by Fernando de la Rúa. De la Rúa resigned following widespread looting and rioting that resulted in 26 deaths and 200 injuries.

Rodriguez Saa was chosen unanimously on Friday by his Peronist Party to take over from Senate leader Ramon Puerta, who was serving as acting president while congressional leaders sought a replacement.

But Rodriguez Saa had enough votes and his appointment as provisional president appeared near certain.

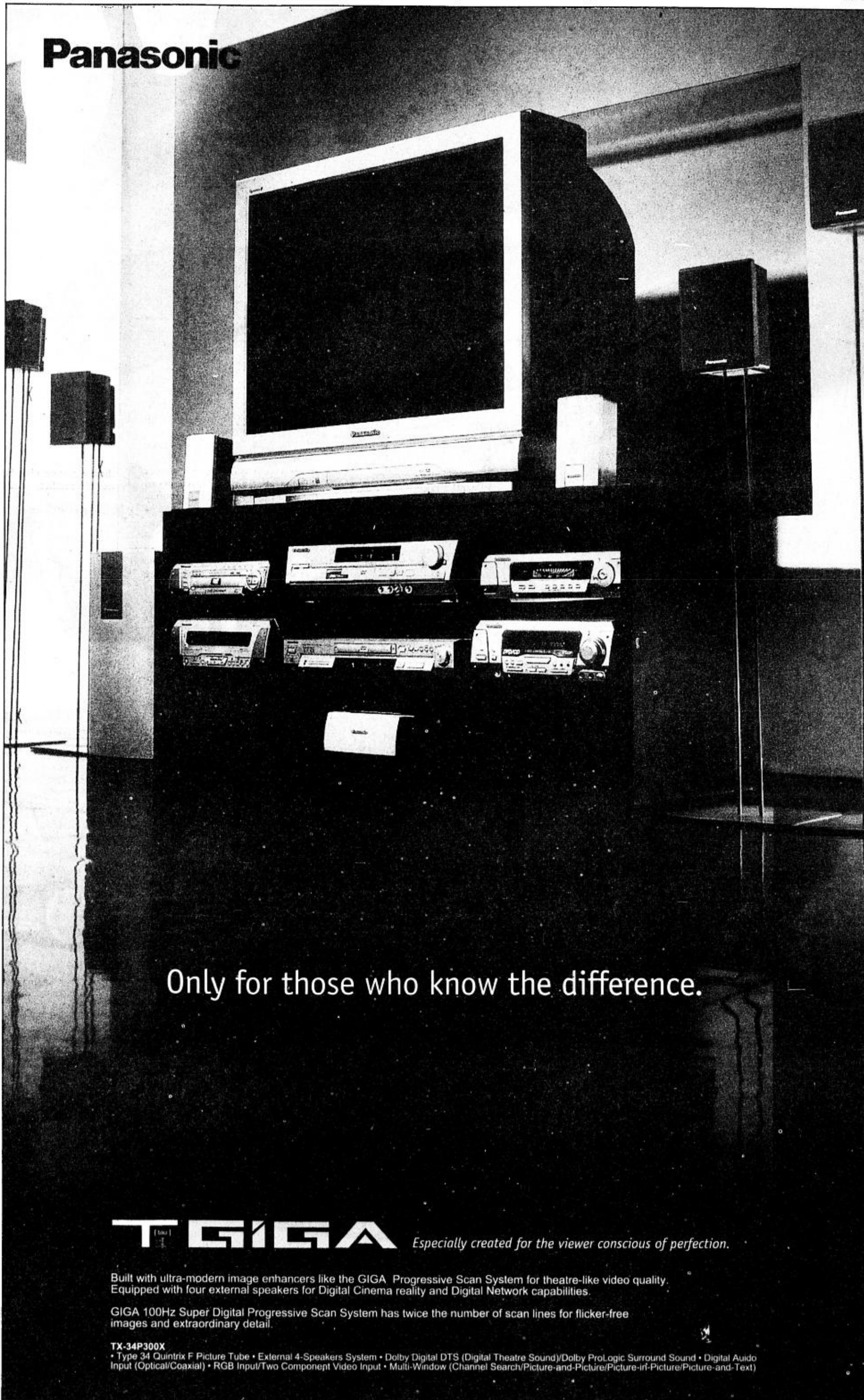
Late Saturday, three hours later than scheduled, Congress began a debate that what was still going on near dawn Sunday. Lawmakers were negotiating over the length of Rodriguez Saa's term and an election date, and were expected to vote to name him as head of the caretaker government.

Lawmakers set a midday Sunday deadline for filling the post, and a spokesperson for the acting president said officials were hoping to swear in the new provisional president at 11:30 a.m. (1430 GMT).

Rodriguez Saa is expected to serve in the job—which many in his own Peronist party spurned—for at least 60 days, until new elections tentatively scheduled for March 3. The leader elected then will finish out the two years of de la Rúa's term.

His appointment restores Argentina's largest party, the Peronists, as the country's dominant political force after the worse unrest since the late 1980s, when another financial crisis gripped this South American country of 36 million people.

AP



Panasonic

Only for those who know the difference.

T GIGA Especially created for the viewer conscious of perfection.

Built with ultra-modern image enhancers like the GIGA Progressive Scan System for theatre-like video quality. Equipped with four external speakers for Digital Cinema reality and Digital Network capabilities.

GIGA 100Hz Super Digital Progressive Scan System has twice the number of scan lines for flicker-free images and extraordinary detail.

TX-34P300X
 • Type 34 Quintrix F Picture Tube • External 4-Speakers System • Dolby Digital DTS (Digital Theatre Sound)/Dolby ProLogic Surround Sound • Digital Audio Input (Optical/Coaxial) • RGB Input/Two Component Video Input • Multi-Window (Channel Search/Picture-and-Picture/Picture-in-Picture/Picture-and-Text)

Drive it this Christmas!

MITSUBISHI

EASY OWN PLANS



Lancer GLS



Lancer MX

Have A Merrier Christmas with your New Mitsubishi Lancer!

This Christmas, Mitsubishi Easy Own Plans gives you a special deal on the Mitsubishi Lancer for as low as P100,000 downpayment. You may also get the Lancer MX for as low as P150,000 downpayment. Now, it's jollier to follow your road!



P100,000 D/P Plan

Model	SRP	D/P	12 mos.	18 mos.	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
GLX M/T	625,000		45,334	31,370	25,014	17,961	14,478	13,112
GLS M/T	685,000	100,000	49,721	34,406	27,435	19,699	15,880	14,381
GLS A/T	715,000		51,915	35,924	28,645	20,568	16,580	15,016



P150,000 D/P Plan

Model	SRP	D/P	12 mos.	18 mos.	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
MX	795,000	150,000	57,764	39,972	31,873	22,886	18,448	16,708

*All Plans Subject to Bank Approval

Low Monthly Plan

Model	SRP	50% D/P	12 mos.	18 mos.	24 mos.
GLX M/T	625,000	310,000	26,913	18,624	14,866
			36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
			10,673	8,604	7,792

MITSUBISHI
LANCER
Follow Your Road

SPECIAL DEALS FOR CASH BUYERS

Promo ends December 31, 2001

Ask us about:



See your nearest Mitsubishi dealer now!

WE'RE EVERYWHERE TO SERVE YOU:

METRO MANILA: CITIMOTORS - Makati - Tel. 892-0331 to 42 CITIMOTORS - Las Pintas - Tel. 875-1745, 873-8503, 875-1768, 875-1704 DIAMOND MOTOR - Greenhills - Tel. 727-0351 to 75, 721-0336, 724-5353 DIAMOND MOTOR - Mercedes Highway - Tel. 845-4801 to 05, 681-4101, 681-4133 DIAMOND MOTOR - Quizon Avenue - Tel. 372-3901 to 15, 414-0440 to 42, 414-0433 to 37 DIAMOND MOTOR - Fairview - Tel. 418-3042, 935-3731 to 32 UNION MOTOR - Abad Santos - Tel. 251-7021 to 38, 253-1372 to 74 UNION MOTOR - Peco - Tel. 563-8481 to 85, 563-8481 to 87, 563-5879, 563-5886, 563-5888, 562-7203 UNION MOTOR - Kalooken - Tel. 384-20-81 to 89, 384-0147, 384-0149, 384-0422, 384-0762 MITSUBISHI MOTORS - Balintawak - Tel. 330-8801, 330-8803 LUZON: CARWORLD - Pampanga - Tel. (045) 981-2801 to 03, 981-3488, 981-5800, 981-3040, 981-5020 CARWORLD - Tarlac - Tel. (045) 955-5551 to 53, (045) 952-4840 CARWORLD - Marikina - Tel. (044) 711-2895 to 2897, 711-2469 CARWORLD - Malolos - Tel. (044) 791-8920, (044) 791-2408 to 08, Cel. No. (0918) 231-7819 CARWORLD - Olongapo - Tel. (047) 224-4307 FREEMOTOR - Balinguag - (044) 760-4235 to 39 FREEMOTOR - Isabela - Tel. 952-8401 FREEMOTOR - Cebu - Tel. (034) 463-1391, 463-5105 MOTORPLAZA - Calatagan - Tel. (076) 822-8852, 822-6723, 617-3080 MOTORPLAZA - Urdaneta - Tel. (076) 589-3312, 589-2602 MOTORPLAZA - Buang, La Union - Tel. (072) 942-0810, 705-5050 MOTORPLAZA - Baguio City - (074) 443-0780, 300-3571 8FM SALES - Lipa City - Tel. (043) 750-5522 to 25, 756-5184, 756-1018 8FM SALES - San Pablo City - Tel. (049) 582-0890, 582-0891 VISAYAS: AVESCOR MOTORS - Bacolod - Tel. (034) 435-2111 to 14, 433-5551 AVESCOR MOTORS - Iloilo City - Tel. (033) 337-8468, 335-0748 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU - Tel. (032) 345-1233, 420-6777 MITSUBISHI MOTORS DUMAGUETE - Tel. (035) 225-1428 MITSUBISHI MOTORS TACLOBAN - Tel. (053) 323-3724, MITSUBISHI MOTORS TAGBILARAN - Tel. (038) 411-5815 MINDANAO: MITSUBISHI MOTORS BUTUAN - Tel. (085) 815-3089 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CAGAYAN DE ORO - Tel. (088) 855-1548 / (08922) 732-508 KARASIA - Davao/North - Tel. (082) 222-1111 to 13 KARASIA - Davao/South - Tel. (082) 208-1490 to 93 KARASIA - Tagum - Tel. (084) 217-3682 MINDANAO INTEGRATED - Gen. Santos - Tel. (083) 302-0588 ZAMBOANGA MOTORS - Zamboanga City - Tel. (082) 983-0788, 981-2250, 981-2138

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.4092, Series of 2001.

Kim says sorry for graft of ex-aide

SEOUL—President Kim Dae-jung apologized to the nation Sunday for the arrest of his former presidential secretary on bribery charges, Kim's office said.

"President Kim Dae-jung feels regretful and is very sorry to the people," said chief presidential spokesperson, Oh Hong-keun, during a media briefing.

Shin Kwang-ock was arrested Saturday on charges of taking 18 million won (\$14,000) in bribes from Choi Tae-gon, a ruling party official, last year. Shin was then a senior presidential secretary and chief pollster.

Shin, who resigned as the vice justice minister last week, has denied the charges. He was appointed vice minister in a routine Cabinet shake-up in August.

The arrest was another blow to the Kim administration's popularity ahead of next year's presidential election.

Prosecutors said Choi, a ruling Millennium Democratic Party official, bribed Shin on behalf of a businessman seeking influence with politicians and government officials.

Choi was arrested last week and charged with taking \$123,735 in bribes from Jin Seung-hyun, the chairman of MCI, an upstart financial firm, last year. He was also accused of using some of the money to bribe politicians and government officials on behalf of Jin.

At the time, Jin was under investigation for alleged stock manipulation. Earlier this month, he was found guilty of the charge and sentenced to nine years in prison.

The investigation was the latest in a series of corruption scandals that have involved high-level officials in the Kim administration, which has seen its popularity ratings slide over the past year. AP

Woman accused of maid abuse

SINGAPORE—A Singaporean woman accused of biting her maid's breasts faces new charges of abusing the other woman with knives, scissors and a cane, a newspaper said Sunday.

Jennicia Chow Yen Ping, 30, first appeared in court in October for causing grievous hurt to 19-year-old Kusmirah, the Straits Times reported. The paper did not specify Kusmirah's nationality.

On Saturday, Chow was back in court accused of throwing boiling water on the maid, hitting her with the back of a knife, poking the woman's thighs with scissors and hitting her on the back with a rattan cane, the papers said.

Chow is also charged with forcibly cutting Kusmirah's hair.

Meanwhile, the prosecution amended an earlier charge against Chow, saying she bit the maid on the breasts and nipples, causing "severe bodily pain" for 20 days.

The case comes days after another woman was jailed for beating her maid.

Hiring household help is common in Singapore, which is wealthier than most of its Asian neighbors and is a popular destination for foreign workers trying to support their families back home.

Singapore—a country of 4 million people—employs about 140,000 foreign maids. About 80,000 come from the Philippines and the rest come from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Burma and Thailand.

Numerous cases of maid abuse come before the Singapore courts, where tough jail sentences are handed out to employers who are convicted of mistreating their domestic helpers.

In Chow's case, a pretrial conference has been scheduled for Friday. The maximum penalty for causing grievous hurt is a 10-and-a-half-year jail term. AP

SMART

click Your own

• ADVENTURE •

Christmas Tales

Be A Part Of The
Story Right In Your
Own Celfone.

Text In Your Chosen
Subplot And See How
The Story Unfolds.



Create your own Christmas fun by choosing the characters' moves from start to finish! What's more, you can download tunes and graphics from these Christmas tales—Christmas Angel and Where In The World Is Santa—with just a few clicks!

To download, key in STORY <title of the story> and send to 241.
Ex. STORY WHERE

Picture messages & ringtones are P12.00 each. All other text messages are P2.50 each.
Picture messages & ringtones are supported by selected NOKIA celfones.

Begin the adventure now! Key in the following keywords for your chosen commands and send to 241.

COMMANDS	KEYWORDS
Get a list of stories	LIST
Start a story	STORY <title> or <number>
Continue to next page	C
Choose what happens next	CHOICE <number>
Go to a specific page	PAGE <number>
Download a ringtone	TONE <code>
Download a picture message	PIC <code>



SMART
Simply Amazing!

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: lnq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: lnq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdvis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 244-1771
E-mail: pdmindao@vweb.inq.com

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Chavit hits critics' use of Church

VIGAN CITY—Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson dismissed an appeal made by the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa) to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines to help them in prosecuting the former governor.

Singson claimed that the move was an indication that Sisa has "weak evidence" to pin him down.

"Why still ask the help of the Church if they have strong evidence against me?" Singson told the INQUIRER Saturday. "That is a clear proof that they do not have evidence against me. They are just politicking."

The group, in its appeal to the CBCP, said its members are "saddened" by the "silence" of the Catholic Church in the province on the corruption issues hurled against Singson.

The letter-appeal was signed by 260 officers and members of Sisa and the Community Information and Assistance (CIA) and some Ilocos Sur leaders.

Singson claimed he never tried to influence local church leaders on the issues being raised against him.

"My relationship with Archbishop (Edmundo) Abaya simply

(stems from) his being the head of the Church in the province and I being a former governor (of Ilocos Sur). Nothing more," Singson said.

Singson claimed that Abaya and the priests in the province have been silent on these issues because "they do not want to be used by disgruntled politicians."

"They are silent because they do not want to be used by my detractors in black propaganda against me," Singson said.

The Priests Assembly of Ilocos Sur denied the allegations of Sisa on the Church's apparent silence on the charges against Singson.

Fr. Vicente Avila, assembly president, said they are preparing an official statement on the issues that will come out this month.

Singson said he would pursue his plan to sue the people who filed the cases against him.

"After all the cases (against me) are dismissed, I would file the appropriate cases against these people to teach them a lesson," he said.

Nestor Segismundo, Sisa president, defended his group's move to seek CBCP's help.

"Did Chavit not also ask the support of the church? Why is he questioning us when we asked the

help of the same church that he had sought for help," Segismundo told the INQUIRER.

Provincial administrator Ma. Victoria Cu, one of the three Ilocos Sur officials included in the plunder case against Singson, denied the allegations of Sisa that she is among the owners of a company that supposedly benefited from allegedly fraudulent contracts from the provincial government.

"I would like to categorically state that I am not a part time owner of Fasduc Builders," Cu said.

Sisa, in its plunder complaint, identified Cu as a part time owner

of Fasduc Builders which the provincial board awarded P360.63 million for the construction and purchase of flue curing barns and equipment.

Cu also questioned Sisa's "piece-meal" filing of charges against Singson and other Ilocos Sur officials.

"Why can they not just file all the cases at the same time? They just want to gain media mileage at the expense of the former governor," Cu said. "These charges have political undertones." **Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

LGUs assured of P134B in income share next year

STA. FE, Nueva Vizcaya—Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. on Wednesday assured the full release next year of the 2002 internal revenue share (IRS), amounting to P134 billion, to local governments.

"Sagot ko 'yan (That's on me)," Lina said of the release of the IRS, formerly known as the internal revenue allotment (IRA), early next year.

The Senate has pledged to approve the P134-billion fund and to leave it untouched "to avoid any trouble," Lina quoted Senate finance committee chair Sen. John Osmeña as saying.

Lina made the announcement before local officials who attended the inauguration of one of two bridges in Barangay Bailing that were constructed under the United Kingdom-assisted "President's Bridge Program."

He said the delay in the release of the IRA during the last quarter of 2000 would not be repeated. "If I need to lobby hard for its release, I will do it," he said.

He added that the government would grant to local governments their IRA for the last quarter of 2000, which was withheld by the Estrada administration.

The unreleased IRA, amounting to some P9 billion, will be distributed to provinces, cities, towns and barangays.

"I'm sure this will be a very welcome news for our local officials," he told local officials led by Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani.

"This (IRS) will surely ensure great benefits for them in their developmental programs, especially since we all want the best for our constituents," he said.

Lina said instead of "allotment," the term was now replaced with "share" to emphasize the spirit of partnership between the national and local governments.

"Allotment connotes doleouts and we do not encourage that," he added.

Under the Estrada administration, the IRA of local governments was withheld out of fear that it would further widen the government's budget deficit.

Some local governments in the country are left to fend off for themselves to raise funds for infrastructure and other projects.

The budget requirement of some LGUs grew after the enactment of the Local Government Code, which devolved several functions from the national to the local government.

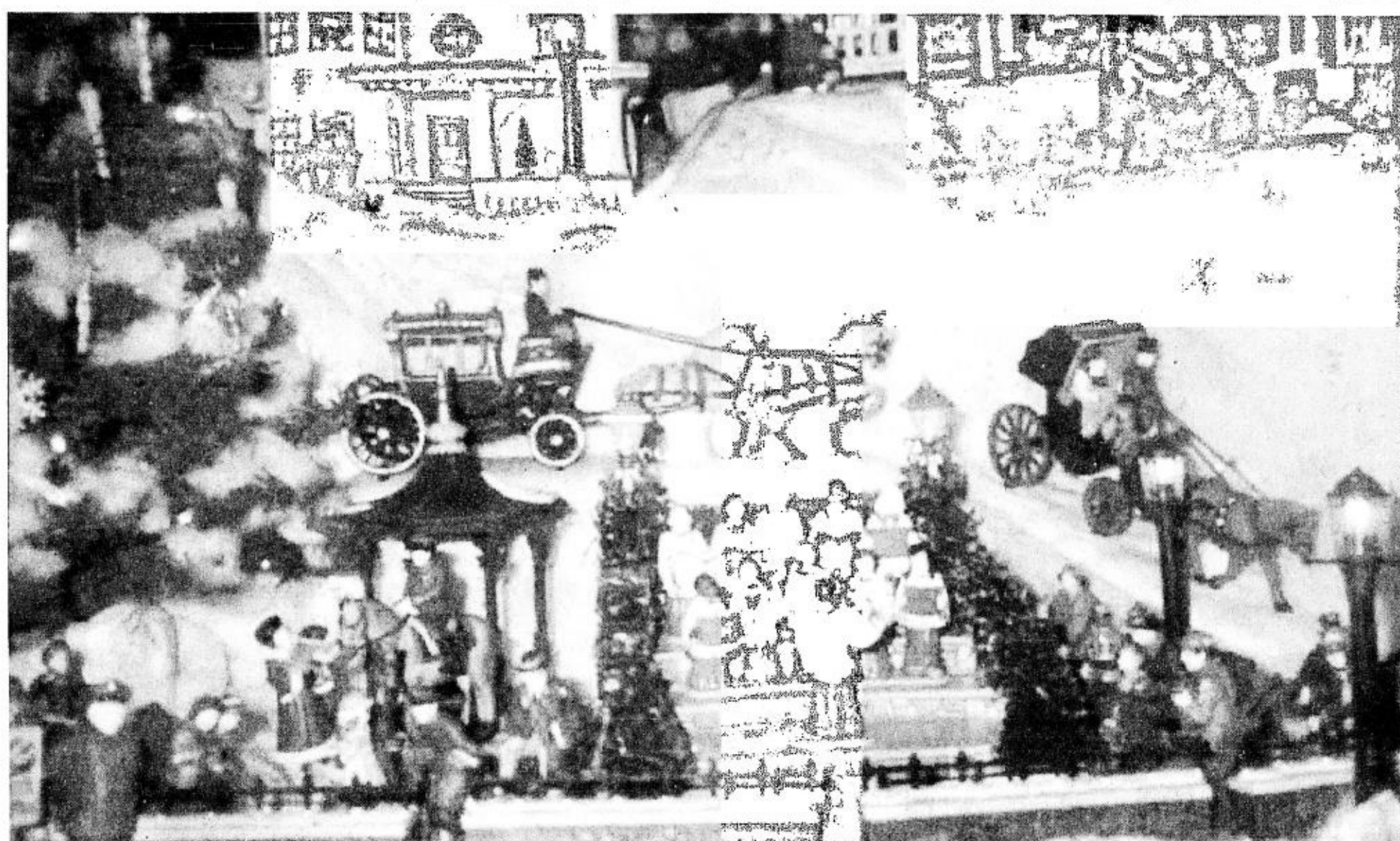
One of these functions is health care, which led to the turnover of hospitals and other facilities to local governments. **Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers, the rest of the country particularly the eastern section will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers. **SOURCE: PAGASA**

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 22°
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	HI 24° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 17°
Laaoag	Mostly Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 19°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 13°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 20°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 22°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°

Compiled by: Chona Galing, PDI Research/12/24/01



A CHOIR sings Christmas carols in one of the miniature villages of the Saborens' Christmas House in Palo, Leyte.

VEN LABRO

Palo: Brightest Christmas spot in E. Visayas

BY VICENTE S. LABRO
PDI Visayas Bureau

PALO, Leyte—The economy may be bleak but the old, historic town of Palo continues to glow as its residents observe Jesus Christ's birthday in a mixture of traditional and modern Christmas rites and festivities.

Christmas lights seem to be everywhere in town. These can be seen in the streets, on trees, on some houses and many Christmas trees.

Bigger than life *belens* (Nativity scenes) made out of indigenous materials like bamboo, *nipa* shingles and jute sacks can be seen in some of the town's barangays that are participating in the best *belen* contest.

Adding color to the festivity are several activities lined up such as the Santa Claus motorcade on Dec. 16, which kicked off the Palo Christmas Festival and the musical shows, sports competition and other contests like the *lantaka* (bamboo cannon) firing and the most decorated village competitions.

The festival is the Palon-ons' way of sharing the spirit of

Christmas and of bringing joy to others. It was organized mainly to honor the birth of Jesus Christ.

The Palo Christmas Festival Foundation, a non-profit community organization headed by former Palo Mayor Salvador Moron, manages the festival, which ends on the Feast of the Three Kings on Jan. 6.

Three kings

During the culmination, there will be a parade of three men dressed as the "three kings" and the "Santa Clauses."

Since the festival's opening, hundreds of visitors flock nightly to Barangay Luntad, Palo's Christmas Village. The barangay has been named several times the most decorated village in the most decorated village contest.

It is in Barangay Luntad where Saboren's Christmas Fantasy House can be found.

This is the most popular Christmas destination in town because this residential house showcases several western Christmas setting, decors and toys like the animated Santa Clauses inside castle-like structures.

A snoring Santa and three swinging Santas greet the visitors entering the gate. Inside the house, an

other Santa is making a list. To his left are five bears hitting a xylophone to a Christmas tune.

A 10-foot Christmas tree stands at the center of what used to be the living room of the Saboren residence, with a toy train continuously moving beneath the elaborately decorated tree.

On the sides are several miniature Christmas Villages, showing tiny houses, some people skating and a choir continually singing Christmas carols.

Miniature villages

An *aparador* beside the revolving Christmas tree displays more miniature Christmas Villages.

The wall at the left side of the room is adorned with a "fireplace" that has "live coal" below. On top of it is a miniature Santa and his reindeer cruising through a snow-filled village. At its right are well-lit buildings of western architecture and a set of different dolls. In another corner of the room are different Nativity scenes, another fireplace and a set of carolers. There is also a miniature fair with a moving Ferris wheel, merry-go-round and a train, among others. An array of hanging Christmas decors fills the entire room.

There are hundreds of these items on display at the Saboren's Christmas Fantasy House, which took the Saboren siblings and their relatives about two weeks to set up.

This is not surprising because these items are collections of Enrico Saboren for 15 years.

The Palo Christmas Festival and the Christmas Fantasy House are the brainchild of 51-year-old Enrico, who resides in California, and works as field representative of a private company that deals with medical records of different hospitals. A tenor, he also conducts voice lessons in his studio during weekends.

Europe tour

Enrico said the idea of putting up a festival in his hometown cropped up in the early 1980s after his tour in Europe as member of the Madrigal Singers.

"I noticed then that in Germany, people hold the Oktoberfest while in other places they have arts and music festivals. Usually these are held in small towns," he says. So he toyed with the idea of having a festival in Palo, 12 kilometers away from Tacloban City.

Palo, which had been twice the capital town of Leyte, was where the Allied Liberation Forces first landed in 1944. It is at present the

seat of the Catholic hierarchy in Eastern Visayas.

The town is also widely known today as the "Christmas capital of Eastern Visayas" because of its Christmas festival.

Enrico already had a small collection of Christmas items when he first broached to his family, relatives and close friends the idea of having a Christmas festival in Palo when he went home for a Christmas vacation more than a decade ago. But it was in 1989 when Enrico's dream was realized.

"I'm doing this for the children. I want them to be inspired, to be happy," said Enrico, who returned to Palo on Dec. 13, three days before the festival's opening.

But it seems that grown-ups are also taking pleasure from what they see inside the Christmas Fantasy House. Like the children, their eyes also glitter as they move around to view the display of Christmas setting, decors and toys.

Indeed, Palo has a merry mix of western and traditional ways in celebrating the birth of Christ to bring the Christmas spirit into everyone's hearts.

'AGAW-ARMAS' MISSION

Rebel infiltrator wounded in gunfight

BY CHITO A. FUENTES
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Government soldiers shot and wounded a man, whom they suspected to be part of a rebel band on Saturday in Sitio Kang-agay, Barangay Owac, Biliran town, some 43 kilometers northeast of this city.

A report from the 302nd Army Brigade based in Carmen town, Bohol sent to the Armed Forces Visayas Command based in Cebu City identified the suspect as Tomas Llanto, 31, a resident of Barangay Dagohoy, Biliran.

Lt. Col. Michael Manquiquis, Viscom spokesperson, said Llanto was wounded during the exchange of gunfire between

members of the New People's Army and a team of soldiers from the 6th Special Forces Battalion based in Biliran.

Llanto was wounded in the back of his right shoulder and in his left leg. He, however, said the suspect was brought to the Congressman Simeon Toribio District Hospital for treatment.

Radio station dyTR based in Tacloban reported that Llanto was a parolee who had been an "unofficial boarder" at the Biliran Municipal Hall after learning that the NPA was after him for his crimes.

The report, quoting a policeman who declined to be named, said Llanto even joined the beach party of the Biliran local government unit in Panglao town last Friday.

At dawn on Saturday, Llanto reportedly

stole the M-16 Armalite rifles of SPO2 Jamero and PO1 Cagata of the Biliran PNP and fled toward Owac.

Residents saw Llanto with the two Armalite rifles and immediately reported the sighting to the Special Forces who promptly dispatched a team to what they thought was a rebel band.

Manquiquis said that based on the report, a Special Forces team led by Capt. James Balaino conducted security patrol to confirm the reported presence of armed men believed to be planning to conduct an ambush against government troops.

But the team, he said, was fired upon while approaching Barangay Owac, prompting the soldiers to retaliate.

The firefight lasted for 10 minutes. The rebels then fled to different directions, said Manquiquis.

He said the encounter site was just three kilometers away from the headquarters of the 6th IB in Barangay Riverside, Biliran.

The military source claimed that Llanto was with another unidentified man when they opened fire at the government soldiers.

He said that Llanto and his companion were on their way to a rendezvous with a bigger group of rebels.

"It was part of an *agaw-armas* operation," the source said.

The two M-16 rifles recovered from the scene of the exchange of gunfire were confirmed to be those owned by the Biliran policemen.

He added that they have not ruled out the possibility that the armed men waiting for Llanto and his companion were planning to ambush government troops. **With a report from Connie Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau**

UNANG TAGUMPAY SA COCO LEVY PANAHON NA!

Kaming mga maliliit na magniniyog na kasapi ng Kilos Saka, at ang mga taga-suporta naming mga non-government organizations, ay lubos at taos-pusong nagpapasalamat sa Korte Suprema, sa pamumuno ni Chief Justice Hilario Davide, sa desisyon nitong ideklara ang coconut levy bilang pondong pampubliko. Ang botong ito ng Korte Suprema na 10-5, ay patunay lamang na makatarungan ang napakatagal na naming iginigiit na ang coconut levy ay pondo para sa mga maliliit na magniniyog bilang isang buong sektor, at nararapat gugulin para sa ikauunlad nila at ng buong industriya ng niyog.

Kami rin ay nagpupugay sa Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), sa Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), at sa Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), sa kanilang masigasig na pagtatanggol sa karapatan ng mga maliliit na magniniyog sa kasong ito. Umaasa kami na umpisa lamang ito ng mga tagumpay nating lahat sa pakikipaglaban hinggil sa mga kasong kaugnay ng coco levy.

Ngayong nakamit na ang tagumpay na ito, malaki ang mga susunod na hakbang na inaasahan namin mula sa inyo, Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Una, inaasahan namin na titiyakin ninyong ang pondong ito ay magagamit lamang para sa kapakanan ng sektor ng mga magniniyog at ng industriya, upang maibsan ang kahirapang matagal na naming dinaranas, lalo na ngayong may krisis na bunsod ng napakababang presyo ng kopra. Kailangan n'yo nang maglaan ng pondong pansuporta sa presyo ng kopra. Matagal na naming hinihingi ang pagkakaroon ng Kopra Social Investment Fund (KSIF). Gayundin ay kailangan nang masagutan ang iba pang mga pangangailangan naming mga maliliit na magniniyog, tulad ng: 1) suporta para sa pagpapa-aral ng aming mga anak; 2) programang pangkalusugan; 3) seguro at benepisyo para sa mga lehitimong magniniyog; at 4) mga programang pangkabuhayan na makapag-papaunlad sa amin.

Pangalawa, upang mabilis na maitalaga ang lahat ng pondong kakailanganin para sa mga programang ito, kailangang siguraduhin ninyo, mahal naming Pangulo, na mayroong sapat at makabuluhang representasyon kaming mga maliliit na magniniyog sa Board of Directors ng United Coconut Planters' Bank (UCPB), at iba pang mga kompanyang pinondohan ng coco levy. Dapat ding maipatupad ang agarang pag-awdit ng Commission on Audit (COA) sa UCPB. Kailangang maisagawa ang mga ito upang matiyak na hindi na muli mapapabayaang maipagwawalang-bahala ang interes naming mga maliliit na magniniyog.

Pangatlo, kailangang magbuo ng isang komiteng pamumunuan ng mga representante mula sa gobyerno, sa hanay namin at ng aming mga taga-suporta, at sa mga pinuno ng industriya ng niyog, upang pangalagaan ang pondo, at seguruhin na tama at walang ikinukubli o *transparent* ang paggamit nito.

Bilang pang-huli, mahal na Pangulo, kami ay lubos na nababahalang marahang pagtrato mo kay Danding Cojuangco matapos ang ginawa nitong pagbenta ng mga San Miguel shares sa Kirin. Hindi ba ninyo nakikita ang implikasyon ng kanyang ginawa? Walang karapatan si Cojuangco at ang Board of Directors ng San Miguel na ipagbili ang mga nasabing shares sapagkat ang mga Board Members na iyon ay hindi mga tunay na kinatawan ng gobyerno o ng mga magniniyog. At isa pa, ang bentahan ay naganap na hindi dumaan sa tamang proseso ng subasta o *bidding*. Lubha kaming nadidismaya na hanggang ngayon ay hindi n'yo pa ipinapawalang-bisa ang bentahang ito. Hindi po ba ninyo alam na ang bentahang naganap ay magbibigay ng *majority shares* sa bloke ni Cojuangco at ng Kirin, na magbibigay sa kanila ng *controlling votes*? Ano na lamang ang mangyayari sa interes naming mga maliliit na magniniyog? O baka naman natatakot kayo kay Danding?

Tinatawagang-pansin naman namin ang Sandiganbayan, at muli ang PCGG at ang OSG, na pursigihin at pabilisin ang paglilitis sa mga natitira pang kaso laban sa mga taong natukoy na nagwaldas ng pondo ng coconut levy at pag-gamit nito sa kanilang pansariling kapakanan, tulad nina Danding Cojuangco at Ma. Clara Lobregat. Kailangang tapusin na ang paglilitis sa mga kasong ito sa loob ng anim na buwan, tulad ng itinalaga ng Korte Suprema. Mahalaga na mapanatili ang integridad at katotohanan sa paglilitis ng mga kasong ito. Tandaan na hindi lubusang mabibigyan ng katarungan kaming mga maliliit na magniniyog hanggat hindi nahuhusgahan at naparurusahan ang mga ganid na noon pa ay nagpakasasa na sa pondo ng coco levy.

Sa mga kasama, sa ngalan ng hustisiya at katarungan ay kailangan na natin muling magkaisa. Huwag sanang mamagitan ang pagka-ganid at pagka-makasarili ng ilan sa ating pagkakaisa. Huwag na tayong muling magpabuyo sa mga taong ilang ulit na tayong niloko. Para sa atin ang coco levy funds. Nakinabang na ang mga dating crony. Panahon na nating mga maliliit na magniniyog ngayon!

Nakalagda,

•ADC Federation•ALSA LEYTE/MAKABAYAN-Leyte Island•Alagad Alay sa Malungtarong Katilingban (ALAMKA)•Women's Association in the Barangay (WAB)•Malabog Integrated Enterprise Development Cooperative (MIEDECO)•AMMMA-Katipunan National•AMMMA-Katipunan-Laguna•AMMMA-Katipunan-Rizal•AMMMA-Katipunan-Batangas•AMMMA-Katipunan-Quezon•AMMMA-Katipunan-Marinduque•AMMMA-Katipunan-Pangasinan•AMMMA-Katipunan-Palawan•AMMMA-Katipunan-Camarines Sur•AMMMA-Katipunan-Occidental Mindoro•AMMMA-Katipunan-Albay•AMMMA-Katipunan-Agusan•AMMMA-Katipunan-Isabela•AMMMA-Katipunan-Iligan•AMMMA-Katipunan-Nueva Ecija•AMMMA-Katipunan-Pampanga•AMMMA-Katipunan-Bulacan•AMMMA-Katipunan-Bataan•AMMMA-Katipunan-Tarlac•AMMMA-Katipunan-Zambales•AMMMA-Katipunan-Eastern Samar•AMMMA-Katipunan-Northern Samar•AMMMA-Katipunan-Western Samar•AMMMA-Katipunan-Guimaras•AMMMA-Katipunan-Leyte•AMMMA-Katipunan-Cebu•AMMMA-Katipunan-Bohol•AMMMA-Katipunan-Iloilo•AMMMA-Katipunan-Negros Occidental•AMMMA-Katipunan-Antique•AMMMA-Katipunan-Aklan•AMMMA-Katipunan-Capiz•AMMMA-Katipunan-Davao del Sur•AMMMA-Katipunan-Surigao del Norte•AMMMA-Katipunan-Cotabato•AMMMA-Katipunan-Sulu•AMMMA-Katipunan-Lanao del Norte•AMMMA-Katipunan-Misamis Occidental•AMMMA-Katipunan-Zamboanga•AMMMA-Katipunan-Davao del Norte•AMMMA-Katipunan-Davao City•AMMMA-Katipunan-Bukidnon•AMMMA-Katipunan-Sultan Kudarat•AMMMA-Katipunan-Agusan•AMMMA-Katipunan-Maguindanao•AMMMA-Katipunan-Tawi-Tawi•AMMMA-Katipunan-Basilan•AMMMA-Katipunan-Misamis Oriental•AMMMA-Katipunan-AMMMAN•Bong-ao, Valencia Small Coconut Farmers Organization (BOSCOFO)•Compostela Valley Federation of Free Farmers Cooperative•Confederation of Mindanao Indigenous Peoples Council•FFCCI-Davao Norte•Jagna-Nagbalaye Multi-Purpose Agricultural Cooperative (JANAMPUCO)•Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Samahan sa Kanayunan (PKSK)•Kababaihan ng KAMMMPI (KAKAMMMPI)•KAMMMPI Cooperative•Kapisanan ng Magsasaka•Mangingsida at Manggagawa ng Pilipinas Inc. (KAMMMPI)•KAMMMPI-Zambales•PKSK Visayas•PKSK Mindanao•KAMMMPI-Quezon•KAMMMPI-Misamis Oriental•KAMMMPI-Negros Oriental•KAMMMPI-Southern Leyte•KAMMMPI-Leyte•KAMMMPI-Pangasinan•KASAMA-FPO•KKK/MAKABAYAN-Nueva Ecija•KKK/MAKABAYAN-Sapang Palay•LABB MAKABAYAN-Quezon Province•MAKABAYAN-Misamis Occidental•Makabayang Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Pilipinas (MAKABAYAN)•MAKABAYAN-Laguna•MAKABAYAN-Zamboanga del Sur•Manghulyawon Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MARBPUCO)•Moro Farmers Association of Zamboanga del Sur (MOFAZS)•Municipal Tribal Chieftains' Negros Oriental League of Small Coconut Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative•Organization of Teduray & Lambangian (OTLAC)•Orient Marketing Cooperative (ORMACO)•PAKISAMA Coco Farmers•PALAMBU•Pamplona Federation of SCFOs•PCU-Davao Oriental•PIETESABUKAN•Province of Siquijor Coconut Farmers and Producers Cooperative (PROCOFO)•SCFO-Davao City•Sibulan Coconut Farmers Credit Cooperative (SICOFACCO)•SMFACI•SOEPA-Surigao Norte•Sta. Catalina Federation of SCFOs•Tampuda Development Council•TRILBEMCO-Zamboanga del Norte•Valencia Multi-Purpose Agricultural Cooperative (VAMPACI)•Philippine Peasant Institute (PPI)•Coconut Reform Movement (COIR)•KAISAHAN-CCS ORD-PASCRES-AR Now!•Center for Agrarian Reform Empowerment and Transformation Inc (CARET)•Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panlalag (SALIGAN)•Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM)•Institute for Politics and Governance•Visayas Management Consultancy Inc (VIMCON)•Center for Empowerment and Resources Development Inc•CERD-Cebu•Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PHIDHRA)•Mindanao Rural Congress (MRC)•Alterdev Services Foundation, Inc.•People's Movement for Empowerment and Development (PEOPLE'S MEND)•Agrarian Reform Community Peoples MPC (ARCPMP)•Agrarian Samahang Kababaihan (ARSK)•Agricultural and Fisheries Council (AFC)•Agusan Resettlement PO Federation (ARPOFED)•Aksasato Binaan Lamkuan (ABL)•Alliance of Coconut Farmers, Union in Zamboanga del Sur (AFUZS) Inc.•ALMMANAKKI•Aniban ng Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyugan (AMMMAN)•Aniban ng Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (AMA)•Association of Coconut Farmers in Zamboanga del Sur (ACOFZS)•Awao Sayon Irrigators Association (ASIA)•B'LAAN Ancestral Domain Claimants Cooperative (BADOCO)•B'laan Tribal Council•B'laan Tribal Council•Bagsak Small Coconut Farmers Association (BASCOFA)•Balay Mindanaw Foundation, Inc. (BMFI-DS)•BALMASCOFO-Bacong•BAMASCOFA-Valencia•Bansa Subanen Pethentul Tu Pasaha Di G'taw Shung (BANDING)•BARRIOS-BASAK Organization•Bayug United Subanen Organization (BAUSO)•BINHI•Blu-Pentras/Natrilub•Budakan MNLF Farmers MPC (BMF-MPC)•BUKLURAN-Oriental Mindoro•Bukluran ng Magsasakang Muslim Kristiyano at Lumad sa Lutayan (BUMMUKRILL)•Cabacungan Free Farmers Cooperative (CAFARMCO)•CABASCOFA-Bais•CADASCOFO-Dumaguete•Cateel Mandaya Tribal Council•CBFMF•Cubi-Cubi-Agongong Masipag Farmer (MPC)•Datu Landscapes and Seascape Protector Association-Davao Free Farmers Cooperative (DFFC)•Davao Gulf Fishersfolk Federation (DGFF)•Davao Resources Development Cooperative•DEVARBEMPUCO-Vallehermoso•DEVELOPERS-ESCOFA-AC-Basay-Esperanza Teduray Tribal Council Association, Inc. (ETTRICA)•Farmers & Fishermen Multi-Purpose Cooperative (LUEFFIMCO)•Fatima Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Inc. (FMPCI)•Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) Davao City•Federation of Free Farmers Misamis Oriental (FFF-Misamis Oriental)•Federation of Tribe Farmers•Fisheries Aquatic Resources Management Council (FARMC)•Buayan, General Santos City•KAAGAPAY•Kagapay ng mga Barangay at Mamamayan tungo sa Kaunlaran ng Bayan (KAAKBAY)•Kababaihan sa Bagong Kaunlaran ng Siglo (KABAKAS SK)•KABAKAS, Inc.•Kabalik at Pagpapatupad ng Batas ng Karagatan (KABATAS)•KABALIKAT-Baler Aurora•KADASIG/GAMBALAY•Kahunggungan sa Mag-uuma sa Esperanza (KAME)•KAISA-MO-Oriental Mindoro•Kalibugan Council of Elders (KCE)•KAMMMPI•Kapisawan Pinagbuklod Bisig (KPB)•Kapunongan sa Hinikalmintang (KAHIL)•Kapunongang sa Bana, Asawa ug Anak sa Silingang Kristohanon sa Oguis (KABAASKOG)•Karaga Biodiversity Linkages, Inc (KABILIN)•Km. 21 Krislam MPC (K.21-KMPC)•Kompederasyon han Organisado nga Paraghlubi han Samar (KOPRAS)•Kongreso ng mga Sradit na Organisadong Grupo (KOSOG)•Kutawato Council for Justice and Peace, Inc. (KCJPI)•La Union Farmers Beneficiaries Cooperative (LUFARBEMCO)•La Union Multi-Purpose Cooperative (LUMUPCO)•Lacaron CARP Beneficiaries Agricultural Multi-Purpose Cooperative (LCBA-MPC)•Lacaron CARP MPC (LACAMP)•LAKAMBINI•LAND-Davao Oriental•Lingayen Fishermen and Seaweeds Growers MPC (LFSG-MPC)•Luzon Indigenous Farmers Organization (LIFO)•Mabato Kalabuso Samahang Magsasaka (MAKASAMA)•Macopa, San Miguel, Tandawan MPC (MASANTAN)•MADECO-Daun•MAFAMPPO•Magsasaka at Kababaihan sa isang Samahang Alternatibo (MAGKAISA-Aurora)•Mag-uumang Kababayan sa Baneka (MAKABA)•Mahayahay Farmers Association (MAFA)•Mainit Free Farmers Cooperative•Malabog Integrated Enterprises Development Cooperative (MEDECO)•Malapong-Masipag Farmers Organization (MMFO)•Manalo Descendants Organization (MDO) Inc.•Manay Lumad Farmers Association Inc. (MALUFAD)•Manga Village Free Farmers Cooperative•Mapalad Cooperative•MARBEMPUCO-Vallehermoso•MASCOFA-Zamboanga•MASCOFO-Guihuligan•MASIPAG-Masipag MPC•Mayo Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organization (MAGREBO)•Monkayo Kristohanong Pgtinabangay sa Mag-uuma sa Davao (KPMO)•Montserrats Farmers Association (MONTSEFA)•Moro Lumad Organization•NAFARMCO-Bayawan•NAMAKA-Baler•National Federation of Labor-Agrarian Reform Desk (NFL-ARD)•Navitalan Matabao Masipag Farmers Organization (NMMFO)•Negros Occidental Federation of Artificial Reefs Fishermen's Cooperatives (NOFEAR)•NEMMADITA•New Ilocos Farmers Cooperative•New Society Settlers Association-Ilang Muslim Village Association (NSSA-IMVA)•New Ultra Kutavato Farmers Integrated Federation Cooperative (NUKFFICO)•O.P.I.-PADC-PO-PANA-PASBEA-Tanjay-PASCOFA-Palompon, Leyte•People's Empowerment in Aklan for Sustainable Alternative Network towards Transformation (PEASANT)•PMEND-Palo, Leyte•Pundaglitayan Farmers Association (PFBA)•Puntian Small Farmers Association (PSFA)•PUSCOFO-Valencia•Pyagkais'an•mga Matikadong sang Dakulang Banwa•RICOP Monkayo Farmworkers Beneficiaries PMC (RIMFABE MCO)•SALAKMA-Oriental Mindoro•Samahang Magsasaka ng 53 Ektarya•Samal United Crusade for Change to ensure Equitable Development Inc. (SUCCEED Foundation, Inc.)•SAMASA-Laguna•SAMMMACA-San Remigio Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Cooperative (SARBEMCO)•Sandigan ng magsasaka (SANDIGAN)•SASCOFO-Sibulan•Sayon Organic Association (SOFA)•SCFO-Escalante•SCFO-Region IV•SCFO-Siaton•SCFO-Sibonga, Cebu•SCFO-Siquijor•SCOFOT-Bacong•SICFA-Siaton•SISCOFO-Amlan•Slufa Multi-Purpose Cooperative•Small Coconut Farmers Organization (SCFO)•Compostela Valley•Small Coconut Farmers Organization (SCFO) Davao City•Small Coconut Farmers Organization (SCFO) Lanao del Norte•Small Coconut Farmers Organizations-Biliran, Leyte•Small Coconut Farmers Organizations-Burauen, Leyte•Small Coconut Farmers Organizations-Palompon, Leyte•Small Coconut Farmers Organizations-Southern Leyte•Small Coconut Farmers Organizations (SCFO) Davao Norte•Southern Mindanao Federation of Cooperative•Sto. Nino SCFO Cooperative-Samal Island•Sulop Tribal Small Farmers Association (SUTRISA)•Sumalo Homeowner's Association•Surap Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Cooperative (SARBEMCO)•Tagababe Indigenous People for emancipation and Development (TIPED)•Tago Center for Sustainable Agriculture (TSCA)•Talo-ao-Talag-anahaw Kasilac (TATAKAS)•Talomo River Coconut Development Cooperative•Tumbala-og Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (TAMARBA)•Tandaya Foundation Inc. (TANDAYA-Samar)•Task Force Mapalad-Negros Occidental•Tomabong MPC (TMPC)•Trento Manobo Ancestral Domain Organization (TREMADO)•Triple L&I Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative (TRILARBEMCO)•Tucumanor Fishermen and Seaweeds Growers Development MPC (TFGCD-MPC)•Ugnayan ng Magsasaka sa Quezon (UGMA)•Union of Subanen Tribal Communities in Mindanao (USTRICOM), Inc.•United Farmers Association (UFA)•Violanta Indigenous Peoples Association.

Kidnapped Canadian rescued

(From page A1)

would improve the relationship between Canada and the Philippines.

Informant

Told by an informant of Belanger's whereabouts, some 40 lawmen stormed a house in Sitio Moros around 12:30 a.m.

Two of the three men guarding Belanger, identified as Boy Saligan and Edong Responde, were killed in the exchange of gunfire. The third, the alleged leader identified only as "Waway," managed to escape.

An Armalite rifle and a sub-machinegun were recovered from the scene.

The members of the rescue mission belonged to the 73rd Infantry Battalion, Sanlahi Pentagon, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency in Central and

Southern Mindanao, Special Task Group-Mindanao Area Office, and the Philippine National Police.

"We had been building this case for a long time and we had coordinated with the intelligence community," Agence France Presse quoted Baluyot as saying. "There is an ongoing pursuit operation," he said, noting that the President had specific orders to "destroy and wipe out the Pentagon Gang."

The President said she was hopeful that the military would soon be able to rescue Pierantoni and the three remaining hostages of the Abu Sayyaf—American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Deborah Yap.

"There are developments but we would rather not telegraph them because the other side will

get to hear what we're doing," she said.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Armed Forces' Southern Command, had earlier said he was confident that the Abu Sayyaf hostages would be rescued before or by Christmas.

Not in Hagonoy

Belanger said he had yet to decide what to do next.

Asked whether he would return to his home in Barangay Lower Balutakay in Hagonoy, Davao del Sur, he said: "Probably not. (Hagonoy) is very secluded, no electricity."

He said he could identify his captors if he saw them again. But he said he could not tell how many persons were behind his abduction because he saw "only three of them on a regular basis."

Jesus Dureza, the President's assistant for Mindanao, quoted

Belanger as saying he would "stay and cooperate until we bust these guys."

Dureza also said Belanger would join the birthday celebration today of his brother Richard, a teacher at the Cor Jesu College in Digos, Davao del Sur.

Belanger was supposedly abducted at a party at the Liling beach resort in Lower Balutakay.

Earlier reports said a friend of Belanger's had phoned his family to say that the Abu Sayyaf had kidnapped the Canadian and was demanding P5 million in ransom.

But Cimatu had dismissed the reports and told journalists that they were looking into the possibility that the abduction was a hoax because Belanger had no means of livelihood.

The Canadian is said to have been living in the Philippines for 10 years.

Belanger said he passed out after taking what appeared to be a spiked drink at the party. When he woke up, he said, he was already in a vehicle that was passing Ulas in Davao City and was subsequently taken to Sitio Moros.

"Some people in the vicinity (Moros) know what's going on," Dureza said.

The kidnappers reportedly later reduced their ransom demand to P3 million. Police said no ransom was paid.

Despite the holidays

In Manila, Cimatu told reporters that military operations to recover the Burnhams and Yap in Basilan were continuing despite the holidays.

He said problems were hounding the troops, and that this would be their first Christmas away from their families.

"The troops earlier set an in-

spirational deadline on Dec. 16, so they can be home with their families," Cimatu said. "But despite these goals and time frames, the operations went beyond this (date) because the enemy is continuously moving."

He added: "We have lost contact because of the thick vegetation. So I think we will sacrifice this Christmas."

According to Cimatu, the key to a successful rescue operation is a "good setup" where visual contact with the hostages is established.

He said that the other day, the troops saw tracks, personal items and cooked rice in the Sumisip area in Basilan.

The group holding Yap and the Burnhams is led by Isnilon Hapilon and is composed of 35-40 men, Cimatu said. *With a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan in Manila; AFP*

New singers keep alive Ibanag epic carol

(From page A1)

home altars from Nov. 30 to Jan. 6, to the accompaniment of the *cinco cinco*, a five-string guitar.

The singers are served *suklati* (a chocolate drink made from pure cacao) or coffee and native cakes during the nightly sessions.

Lessons

The people may well learn lessons from the episodes of the Salamon, according to elders in Cagayan.

One that tells of the three wise men bringing gifts to the Infant Jesus is a lesson on humility and the wisdom of recognizing God's

power over all other powers.

That of Christ angrily driving money changers and vendors from a synagogue may teach corrupt officials, dishonest businessmen and swindlers to mend their ways.

Another episode about Christ confronting community leaders shows that the youth can serve to enlighten and check the excesses of their leaders.

The elders claimed that the singing of the Salamon had contributed to peace and order in the communities.

They said the residents were reaffirming their faith in God through the lessons of the Salamon.



TEACHING 'EM YOUNG: "Salamonistas" sing the lines of the Ibanag epic carol in Cagayan.

ESTANISLAO CALDEZ/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Pork-laden 2002 national budget roasted, toasted

(From page A1)

in full the proposed national budget for next year, with the assurance that this would be spent on useful projects.

In the version approved by the House in November, total PDAF allocations amounted to P3.39 billion, but this month, the bicameral conference committee raised the total to P5.67 billion or a jump of P2.28 billion.

Ocampo said the challenge for members of Congress now was to "show proof" that the pork barrel they use is for the benefit of the people.

He said Bayan Muna was doing these in the projects it was sponsoring.

A member of the bicameral committee, Ocampo said his group expressed reservation on the 2002 budget.

"We continue to reject the pattern of the budget where automatically one-third of the national income goes to debt servicing as this creates problems for providing basic social services to the people," he said in a phone interview.

Military budget

The farmers' group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas noted that total allocations for debt servicing and military budget amounted to over 53 percent of the entire 2002 budget. The Department of National Defense has a budget of P60.244 billion.

"The biggest chunk of next year's budget allocation by the Macapagal administration goes to non-productive expenditures," KMP chair Rafael Mariano charged.

"The second biggest chunk shows that the President is obviously offering political bribes to the military and police to win their continued support to her crisis-ridden government," he added.

Mariano said about P500 million of the P5 billion subtracted from the Armed Forces of the Philippines modernization fund was returned to the defense department, to be used for hiring additional members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographi-

cal Units.

The Philippine National Police will get an additional P4 billion for the recruitment of about 4,000 policemen.

"Instead of putting priority on economic and social services for the Filipino people, Ms Macapagal is hell-bent in implementing IMF-WB-WTO dictated neo-liberal economic policies which primarily serve US interests and its monopoly capitalists," Mariano said. He was referring to the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization.

"On the other hand, she is out to intensify her total war policy which resorts to rampant human rights abuses among the peasantry, women and children in the countryside," Mariano added.

"We expect more military-instigated atrocities in the coming year. This is Ms Macapagal's Christmas present to the people, fascism and violence against the struggling people, and more economic hardship," Mariano said.

Fortaleza said that with the passage of the budget, "the IMF-WB and (the) legislators get to enjoy chocolates, while the people feed on lollipops."

"While Filipinos dream of millions in these times of crisis, it now appears that it would have been better that they became legislators, for one could garner not only millions but billions in pork barrel," Fortaleza said.

"Pork barrels are mainly political investments as far as congressmen and senators are concerned," Fortaleza said.

"Neither are they infused to pump prime our ailing economy nor do they help in alleviating the miserable lives of the poor. Instead, they are squandered by the 'Honorable' to forward their own personal and political agenda," he said.

"While solons of both chambers give themselves a pat on the back for this 'pro-poor' budget they have enacted, we can only see that they have merely given themselves fat bonuses," he added.

'No room in Bethlehem for Arafat'

(From page A1)

against anti-Jewish militants instead.

Israel's decision to prevent Arafat's Christmas pilgrimage could spark fresh tension with the Palestinian leader, who told the Voice of Palestine radio on Saturday he would visit the town of Jesus Christ's birth "even if I have to go there on foot."

Arafat, a practicing Muslim, has attended Christmas Eve services at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity since the town came under Palestinian-rule in 1995. To reach Bethlehem in the southern West Bank, Arafat needs to cross Israeli-ruled land.

In protest over the fighting in the Middle East that has turned Christ's birthplace into a no-go zone, a British priest has banned the Christmas carol "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem" in his church.

Canon Jim Pannet, a priest in Purley, south of London, thinks the carol's second line "How still we

see thee lie" is inappropriate while the fear of snipers leaves people too afraid to venture into Bethlehem's Manger Square.

"I feel strongly that we have to do something for the Christians in the Holy Land and have to make a public declaration. We won't be singing 'Oh Little Town of Bethlehem' in my church—not on Sunday," Pannet said.

Confined in Ramallah

Arafat has been effectively confined to his West Bank headquarters in Ramallah because of tough Israeli military action designed to force him to rein in militants behind a recent wave of suicide attacks on Israel that killed 29 people.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Cabinet in charge of security said it had decided in a telephone vote to ban Arafat's visit because he was "not acting to dismantle Palestinian terror organizations and to prevent terror against Israel."

The Cabinet made its decision despite announcements by some Islamic militants they were temporarily suspending suicide attacks against the Jewish state.

Dovish Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres signaled the rightist Sharon's coalition government was split over the ban on Arafat, saying he should be allowed to go to Bethlehem.

"I don't want our prevention of Arafat visiting Bethlehem to become the talk of Christmas around the Christian world... Let him go, pray, do what he wants to do," Peres told Army Radio.

Even so, the United States and European Union also stepped up pressure on Arafat, urging him to press on with a crackdown against attacks on Israel despite the militants' decision.

"I realize they've said they won't conduct suicide bombings. That has to lead to the conclusion that maybe someday they'll say they will," US Department of State spokesperson Richard Boucher told reporters in Washington.

The militant Hamas movement said Friday that it was halting suicide attacks in Israel until further notice in the interests of Palestinian unity. Officials of Islamic Jihad put out mixed signals on Saturday about whether the group would follow suit.

The moves seemed to be aimed at halting fighting between Palestinian police and Islamic militants, which reached a climax on Friday when six people were killed and

more than 80 wounded in a gun battle in a Gaza Strip refugee camp.

The clashes, which followed efforts by Arafat to clamp down on militants, were among the worst since the Palestinian Authority was set up in 1994 and marked one of the most serious internal challenges to Arafat's leadership.

Israel has posted tanks near Arafat's Ramallah office and has also bombed his helicopters so he cannot fly.

Disturbed

In London, Pappet said he recently led a group of parishioners on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and was disturbed by what he saw.

"In October, a father holding his baby daughter in his arms was shot dead by a Jewish sniper as he crossed Manger Square. He managed to put his child down on the ground before dying. It's not a peaceful place at the moment," he said.

"There are Israeli tanks everywhere and I don't want to be political but we have a duty to pray for peace in Bethlehem not just sing carols in ignorance," said Pannet, former head of St. George's Cathedral in London.

But David Frost, the Church of England vicar of a neighboring parish, said he would be happy for the carol to be sung in his church.

"The political situation in Palestine would be very familiar to Jesus if he was being born today. Just put the Roman army in place of the current occupying tanks and in that sense nothing has changed." *Reuters*

Survivors' challenge: Fruitcakes

(From page A1)

including Johnny Carson's well-known crack that there's only one fruitcake that gets passed around year after year.

So how does one get rid of this unwanted dense mixture of poundcake, nuts and candied fruit? Drop it from a tall building? It hardly sustains a scratch.

Shoot it with a submachine gun? It survives.

But run it over with a sport utility vehicle (SUV) or kick it like a football and it crumbles, according to a just published investigation by the Reno Gazette-Journal.

The publication, in an effort to rid its readers' homes of the unloved seasonal treat, mounted a series of experiments to determine the best way to destroy a gift "nearly everyone receives and few actually want."

"The SUV was what did them in most definitively," Camille Hayes, the Gazette-Journal reporter who organized the fruitcake survival test, said on Thursday.

Hayes marshaled several aides and, using store-bought fruitcakes, organized the punishment.

The first test involved dropping

fruitcakes from the roof of a two-story house onto a concrete basketball court.

"In the moments before it was let go, our team wondered if the fruitcake would shatter, bounce or remain intact. The answer was none of the above," Hayes recounted.

Instead, the cake survived the drop relatively unscathed, exhibiting only a few "fissures" in its dense body.

No match

The second test involved running over a fruitcake with a 3,000-pound SUV. This proved to be more effective, leaving a "tire-marked, raisin-flecked smear on the asphalt," Hayes wrote.

A third test, submitting the fruitcake to the power of a football place kicker, was also gratifying, resulting in an explosion of candied fruit as the fruitcake disintegrated.

Strangely, a uniquely Nevada-style solution to the fruitcake problem—shooting them with submachine guns—proved disappointing, Hayes said.

"Nevada is a state in which machine guns are legal to own and operate, so I thought it would be a treat to see what one did," Hayes

said.

Not much, as it turned out.

Pummeling a pair of target fruitcakes with two M-11 fully automatic submachine guns resulted in only minor damage, Hayes reported.

"The larger cake proved especially resilient. Rather than shattering it into the smithereens we had expected, the volley of bullets merely nibbled at its edges. And as for the dark center of the beast, it proved too dense to lose its shape."

Hayes said her fruitcake demolition campaign had garnered largely favorable reviews from the readers of the Reno Gazette, and that she might try again next year with some more ambitious strategies—like dropping fruitcakes from a helicopter.

Fruitcake capital

But while many deride the fruitcake as an edible doornail, Claxton, Georgia, has long embraced the holiday treat as its claim to fame.

City signs and a 15-meter water tower carry the slogan "Fruitcake Capital of the World."

The fruitcake has enough fans to support two fruitcake bakeries

in the south Georgia city of 2,200 residents, 72 kilometers west of Savannah.

Claxton Bakery Inc. ships more than 1.8 million kilograms of fruitcake every year for retailers. Georgia Fruit Cake Co. makes several hundreds of thousands of kilograms, mostly for sale to military bases.

That makes Claxton a legitimate contender for its self-proclaimed "fruitcake capital" title. Its main rival is Corsicana, Texas, which cranks out about 2 million kilograms of fruitcake annually.

"It means a lot to us to have something that we can hang our hat on," says Perry DeLoach, Claxton's mayor.

"It may have never brought us an industry, but it has brought an awful lot of people to Claxton. They'll always stop in Claxton and buy fruitcake," the mayor said.

And folks in Claxton are mindful of fruitcake being the object of so many holiday jokes.

"It's not a joking matter," says Dale Parker, who runs Claxton Bakery.

"It's like you're talking about a member of our family." *Reuters, AP*

Straight news • In-depth analysis • Provocative columns

We'll deliver them all right at your doorstep.



"The Largest Selling Newspaper Nationwide"

For Metro Manila home delivery, please call us at

528-01-83 • 528-01-86

or mail/tax reply coupon below to

Philippine Daily Inquirer

c/o Circulation Division

Ground Floor, Trinity Building, 636 T. M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila Fax No. 528-02-34

I'd like to subscribe to the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
Please have my copy delivered to:

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. No. _____

Signature _____

News that makes a difference

On the occasion of 14th Philippine Travel Mart
Island Skip Trips gives you,

Bohol

PRICE CUT

FOR AS LOW AS P2,999!

You're invited to one of the
country's most exciting
destinations, BOHOL!

Avail of amazingly low
priced vacation packages
that includes...

- 3 days / 2 nights
accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- Round-trip transfers
- Full day Countryside Tour
to Chocolate Hills
- River cruise with lunch
- SuperCat roundtrip fares
Cebu-Tagbilaran

AIRCON TWIN SHARE

RESORT ACCOMMODATION

Group A - P 5,899
Alona Palm Resort & Restaurant
Panglao Island Nature Resort

Group B - P 4,399
Bohol Beach Club

Group C - P 3,899
Alona Kew White Beach
Alona Tropical Resort
Lost Horizon
Sun Apartelle

CITY HOTEL ACCOMMODATION - P 3,599

Bohol Tropics Resort Club
Metro Centre Hotel

FAN ROOM TWIN SHARE

RESORT ACCOMMODATION

Group A - P 3,399
Oasis Beach Resort

Group B - P 3,199
Alona Kew White Beach
Lost Horizon
Alona Tropical Resort

Group C - P 2,999
Aquatica Beach Resort
Bohol Divers Lodge
Swiss Bamboo House

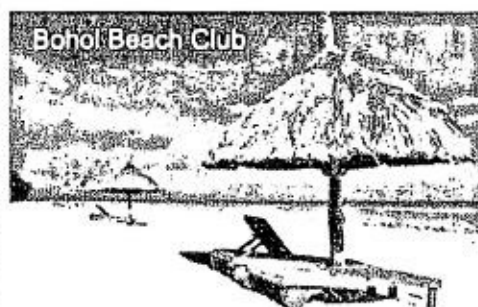
CITY HOTEL ACCOMMODATION - P 3,199

Bohol Tropics Resort Club
Metro Centre Hotel

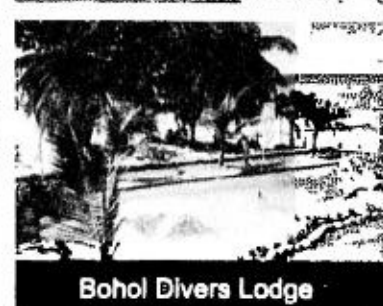
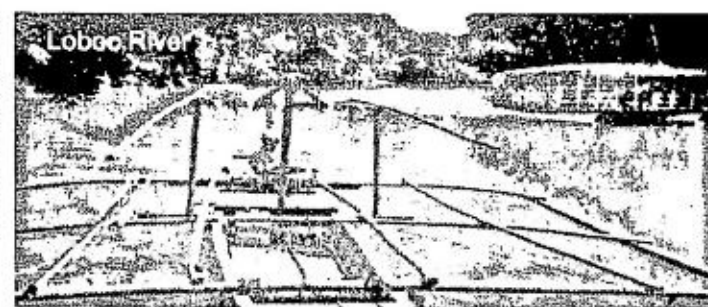
Offer good until April 2002
All packages via cebu



Metro Centre Hotel



Alona Kew White Beach

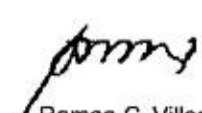


Bohol Divers Lodge



Bohol Tropics Resort

As the premier fast craft operator in the country, Philippine Fast Ferry Corporation realizes the importance of tourism and its impact on our operations and the local economy. We therefore throw our full support to the vision and ideals behind Philippine Travel Mart 2001. Through our flagship tour package program, Island Skip Trips, we have come up with an amazingly low-priced package specially for this occasion. Mabuhay!


Ramon G. Villordon
SVP COO
Philippine Fast Ferry Corporation



The Travel Mart is a welcome opportunity for us in the province to showcase the attractions that make Bohol a truly unique eco-cultural tourist destination.

As the Provincial Governor, nothing gives me more pleasure than to invite one and all to savor the so-called magic that can be found only in Bohol. I assure you that you will leave the place remembering the moment for a long time. Dayon kamong tanan! Welcome to Bohol!


Hon. Erico B. Aumentado
Governor
Province of Bohol



Visit the Bohol pavilion at the 14th Philippine Travel Mart at the SM Megamall trade center opening on Friday Nov. 23, 2001. Door prizes await early visitors on a first come first serve basis.

Accredited



Island Skip Trips is the Travel Package Program
of Philippine Fast Ferry Corporation.

For a detailed itinerary, inclusions and rates,
contact your favorite travel agent or our booking office:
SuperCat SuperTerminal, Pier 4, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City
Tel. No: 2324511 loc 636 Telefax: 4129564
e-mail: skiptrips@supercat.com.ph website: www.supercat.com.ph



Let the SuperCat Take You to this Amazing Destination!



SPORTS ON TV COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUAT

POOL: World Pool League 2001 at 2 p.m. (r - 8:30 p.m.) on ESPN
GOLF: GolfGlobe 2001 at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
PGA National Car Rental Classic, First Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
PGA Bay Hill Invitational, Third

Round at 11 p.m. on ESPN
BASKETBALL: This Week in the NBA at 12:30 p.m. on CNN
US NCAA - Wake Forest vs. St. John's at 3 p.m. (r), Seton Hall vs. Michigan State at midnight (r) on ESPN
Schedules subject to change without prior notice

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Beuchat tops fishing tilt

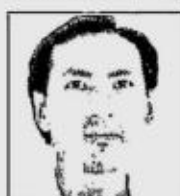
THE last leg for the year of the Dive Buddies Fish ID Scuba Diving Adventure was held last week at the Eagle Point Resort in Anilao with Team Beuchat emerging champion with 81 points. Runner-up was OMS team with 53 points, other teams were Ikelite, Aeris and Space Air. The event will be aired on Unlimited Diving over NBN Channel 4 on Monday, 10:30 p.m. For details, call tel. 913-8605.

9TH STRAIGHT WIN

Jordan lifts Wizards past Knicks

Xmas games

NBA NOTES



Henry Liao

IN CONTRAST to local tradition, it's another day's work for some NBA athletes on Christmas Day.

That's because the NBA has scheduled a pair of games on Dec. 25 (Dec. 26, Manila time). The doubleheader features Toronto at New York in the first game and Philadelphia at the LA Lakers in a rematch of the 2001 NBA finals.

Both games will be televised nationally in the US by the NBC network. Unlike a year ago, this year's Christmas Day twinbill will be held at prime time (early evening) in America. Locally, the doubleheader will be aired live on Wednesday by ESPN International, starting 7 a.m.

Actually the two games are return matchups from the 2001 playoffs. The Toronto Raptors knocked off the New York Knicks in a maximum five games in a first-round confrontation while the two-time reigning NBA titlist Lakers trounced the 76ers in the NBA Finals in five games after dropping the series opener.

Christmas Day games have been a source of irritation for NBA players. However, they are partly to be "blamed." Under the collective bargaining agreement negotiated by the NBA owners and the players' union in January 1999 following a prolonged work stoppage, a pair of games is allowed on Christmas Day although practice is prohibited.

Players on road teams usually travel on Christmas Eve (where there are no games) to reach destination, then stay in hotels upon arriving before taking to the hardwood the next day.

Another reason why there are games on Christmas Day is the NBA's television contract with NBC.

The major commercial TV network usually starts its annual NBA regular-season coverage with the Dec. 25 telecasts, which NBC officials claim the most watched games of the regular campaign. This year, though, NBC opened its NBA coverage in early November to provide maximum exposure to the NBA comeback of Michael Jackson with the Washington Wizards.

NBC is in the final year of a four-year, \$1.75-billion pact with the NBA. Coupled with its deal with Turner Sports (\$890 million to air games at TNT and TBS), the league owns a \$2.64 billion TV package overall. The four-year agreement with Turner also expires after this season.

Late word is that ABC has wrested the commercial contract from NBC and will start airing the games next season. Meanwhile, Turner Sports will be splitting the cable coverage with ESPN beginning in 2002-03.

SPORTSWATCH

Park OKs \$65-M deal

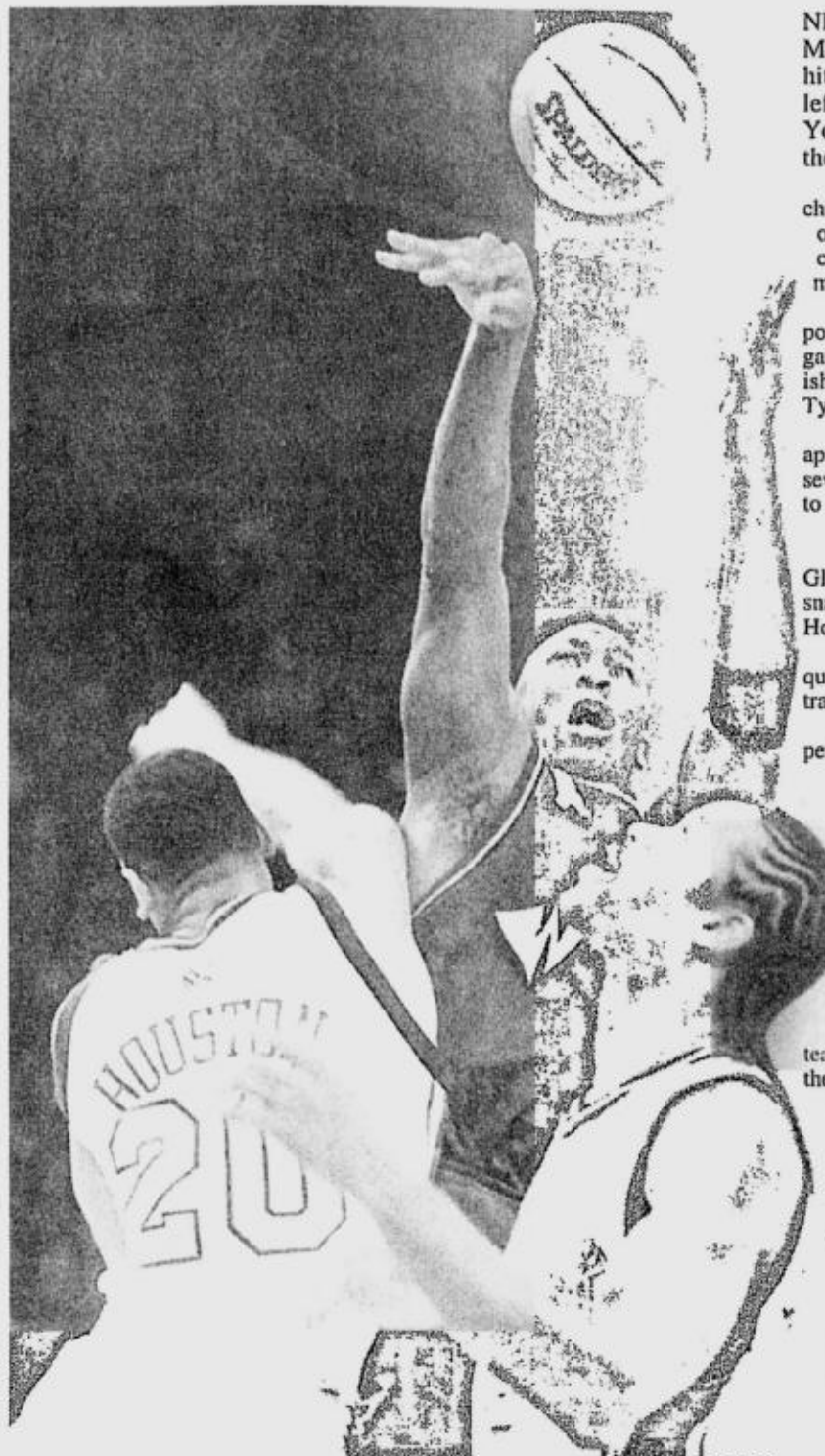
ARLINGTON, Texas —The pitching-poor Texas Rangers grabbed the best arm in the free agent market, agreeing Saturday to a \$65 million, five-year contract with South Korea's Chan Ho Park. Park, a 28-year-old right-hander, went 15-11 with a 3.50 earned run average last season for the Los Angeles Dodgers. He joins a Texas team that had a major league-worst 5.71 ERA and was last in the AL West. Texas, which went 73-89 and finished 43 games behind division champion Seattle, has been busy in the offseason. AP

Girard stops Koon

ORLEANS, France —France's Bruno Girard stopped American Robert Koon in the 11th round on Saturday to take the vacant WBA light heavyweight title. The referee ended the bout after Girard, 31, hammered his opponent with a left punch followed by a right. Koon had been pinned to the ropes for much of the last four rounds and in the final two swayed giddily, his nose bleeding. Although seven years older than his opponent, Girard looked by far the leaner and fitter of the two and had Koon retreating throughout the match. The Frenchman, a former WBA super middleweight champion, has a record of 32 wins, two draws and three defeats thanks to his victory at the Zenith sports arena in this central French town. AP

Patriots near playoff

FOXBORO, Massachusetts —The New England Patriots beat the Miami Dolphins and moved closer to a playoff game in a stadium soon to be demolished. The Patriots won 20-13 Saturday in the last regular-season game at the 31-year-old Foxboro Stadium. Antowain Smith rushed for a career-high 156 yards and a touchdown and the defense stretched to 14 quarters its streak of not allowing a touchdown. The wrecking ball is scheduled to hit two days after the last home game, but the Patriots' turnaround from last year's 5-11 record gives them a chance for a home playoff game.



JORDAN unleashes the tiebreaking jump shot off Houston (left) and Latrell Sprewell.

NEW YORK — Michael Jordan had another Madison Square Garden moment to remember, hitting a tiebreaking jump shot with 3.2 seconds left as the Washington Wizards beat the New York Knicks 87-86 in the NBA Saturday night for their ninth straight victory.

The winning streak matches the longest in franchise history. The Wizards, who were without second-leading scorer Richard Hamilton (strained groin), came back from a 10-point deficit in the final six minutes.

Jordan, who tormented the Knicks in past postseasons and had the only triple-double in All-Star game history when it was played at the Garden, finished with 26 points. Hubert Davis added 14 and Tyrone Lue tied his season-high with 12.

Allan Houston and Kurt Thomas had 16 points apiece for the Knicks, who lost for the sixth time in seven games and had their home losing streak extended to four games.

Hawks 101, Hornets 88

In Atlanta, Jason Terry scored 22 points and Dion Glover added 19, rallying Atlanta past Charlotte and snapping the Hawks' seven-game losing streak to the Hornets.

The Hawks fell behind by 14 points in the first quarter before switching to a zone defense that frustrated the Hornets.

Charlotte shot just 35 percent over the final three periods and lost for the fourth time in five games.

David Wesley scored 26 points for Charlotte and

Baron Davis had 19 points and 12 assists. Elden Campbell added 17 points.

Pacers 109, Cavaliers 103

In Cleveland, Jermaine O'Neal scored a career-high 38 points and Indiana shot a season-best 61 percent in a victory over Cleveland.

Reserve Bryant Stith scored Cleveland's last 10 points, but O'Neal blocked a put-back attempt by Stith that would have pulled the Cavaliers within a point.

Andre Miller and Wesley Person each scored 20 points for Cleveland. Chris Mihm added 19.

Jazz 104, Nets 90

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Karl Malone scored 31 points and was knocked to the floor late in the game by Kenyon Martin in Utah's victory over New Jersey.

Malone took a right forearm to the face from Martin as he drove on a fastbreak with 1:37 to play. The clothesline blow knocked Malone off balance and he fell to the floor face first. He was down for a couple of minutes but got up and finished the game.

Martin got a flagrant foul and was ejected.

John Stockton added 15 points and 10 assists for Utah, which snapped a two-game losing streak.

Complete results:

Atlanta 101, Charlotte 88; Indiana 109, Cleveland 103; Washington 87, New York 86; Utah 104, New Jersey 90; Houston 115, Milwaukee 110; Minnesota 95, Chicago 74; Dallas 102, Orlando 80; Golden State 105, Denver 101; Phoenix 102, Portland 90; Seattle 117, Detroit 89; L.A. Clippers 101, Sacramento 85. AP

Spurs vs Bucks live on Solar

SOLAR Entertainment will telecast today's (Monday, Dec. 24) NBA game between the San Antonio Spurs and Milwaukee Bucks live at 8 a.m. on the Solar cable channel (Skycable-24 and Homecable-17) with a replay at 8 p.m.

At 20-4 win-loss, the Spurs are among the best teams in the NBA and their 10-game winning streak is the longest in the NBA this season. Led by twin towers

Tim Duncan and David Robinson, the 1999 NBA champions are also a formidable 13-1 at home, tied with the LA Lakers for best home record in the NBA, and that's where they will be playing the Bucks today.

Solar telecasts the NBA every Sunday (9 p.m.) and Thursday (10 p.m.) on NBN-4 and Monday mornings on the Solar cable channel and over 200 cable operators nationwide.

PNBA awards back Jan. 29

THE 2ND Philippine National Basketball (PNBA) Academy Awards will be back with a bang on Jan. 29 to honor basketball's greatest achievers of the passing year on and off the court.

PNBA president Rep. Antonio M. Abaya said the awards are meant to boost the standard of the sport not only in the Philippines, but in Asia as well.

"Awards inspire people to keep up the good work. For those who do not garner any recognition, awards will make them do better the next

time around," said Cong. Abaya, who is also Basketball Association of the Philippines chair and ethics committee chief in congress.

Sanctioned by the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) and its Asian Basketball Academy (Aba), the PNBA handed out its first Asian Leadership Award, also known as the Sen. Ambrosio Padilla Award, to Chinese leader Mou Zuo Yun, who is chiefly responsible for China's emergence as a powerhouse of the sport.

The Padilla award is in honor of the BAP's first ever president.

YEARENDER

Blades sharpest; MBA nation's passion

BY ROY LUARCA

THE LBC Batangas Blades turned out to be the sharpest in this year's MBA.

Their superstars and other starters shone as the Blades bested the Negros Slashers, 3-1, in the aborted best-of-five finals to capture their first national title since the league inaugurals in 1998.

Rommel Adducul, Alex Compton and Eddie Laure proved their mettle as All Stars, while Tonyboy Espinosa and Jeffrey Sanders provided the sustaining firepower for the Blades, who foiled the Slashers' bid to become the first team from the Southern Conference to emerge national champions.

Having played a vital role in the Blades' three victories, Espinosa was chosen the finals' best player despite going scoreless in Game Three, which they lost in Bacolod City.

The Blades rebounded mightily in Game Four, 94-75, enshrining themselves as the first team to clinch the national title on the road.

That the games drew overflow crowds attested to the MBA's drawing power, especially in Bacolod City, where the Slashers are kings.

A pleasant surprise, however, was the way Batangueños warmed up to the Blades.

For the first time, the Blades were able to fill the St. La Salle Lipa Centrum to the rafters in Game One.

When the Nash Racela-coached Blades returned from Bacolod on Thursday, they were given a reception worthy of champions.

A motorcade from Batangas City to Lipa City was held in their honor after which they were commended by Batangas Gov. Hermilando Mandanas and Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto, respectively.

Blades owners Santi and Dino Araneta, of

course, also did their part.

They tendered a party in honor of the Blades at the All-Star 29 Bar owned by Dino Araneta and then gave each member of the team a championship ring. These were apart from cash bonuses and a scheduled vacation to Boracay early next year.

Amid the euphoria of the successful national playoffs, however, the MBA was jolted by two unexpected developments—the leave of absence taken by First Phase titlist Andok's San Juan and FedEx Laguna's acquisition of Tanduy's franchise in the PBA.

MBA Commissioner Butch Antonio admitted that it would be difficult to fill in the place to be vacated by Andok's, the 2000 national titlist, but said new applicants and returnees should enable the league to weather the crisis.

Interested to join the MBA next year are National Open champion Spring Oil, owned by

noted father and son shooters Tom Ong and Tac Padilla; an Olongapo selection backed by Tourism Sec. Dick Gordon and Mayor Kate Gordon, and a Makati All-Star being formed by former vice mayor Edu Manzano.

Rebuilding their teams are 1998 national titlist Pampanga, under the sponsorship of Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda; Pangasinan, under Tim Orbes; and 1999 champion Manila, under Councilor Butch Belgica.

Ramon Tuason, MBA director for marketing and business development, said the entry of more sponsors and the increased viewership share augur well for the league, which is facing a trying year in 2002.

The overwhelming crowd support has made the team owners' resolve even stronger to continue with the MBA, now turning out to be the passion of a nation longing for homegrown heroes.



BUÑAG

Ilocandia Slew rules Sampaguita Hopeful race

BY EDWIN VILLANUEVA

ILOCANDIA Slew made Myther Buñag's Christmas wish come true by winning the Sampaguita Hopeful Stakes race yesterday at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

"Ang wish ko lang sana this Christmas eh manalo siya kaya masayang masaya ako at nagwagi nga siya," said Buñag, the Malate businessman who owns the three-year-old bay filly.

Handled expertly by star jockey Jonathan B.

Hernandez, Ilocandia Slew matched Going Free stride for stride in the early going of the 1,500-meter race before saying goodbye to the latter at the far turn with relative ease.

The Aimaam-Seode filly, champion of this year's 6th Breeders' Cup Three-Year-Old Distaff Mile and Mitra Cup 2 Three-Year-Old Fills, finished the race eight lengths clear of Going Free, who was handled by Pat Dilema.

"Gusto ko ring pasalamatan ang trainer kong si Nestor Manalang at sa lahat ng tumaya kay Ilocandia

Slew, Merry Christmas sa inyong lahat," added Buñag.

Meanwhile, Gold Edition capped her farewell run with a thrilling victory in the accompanying Sampaguita Stakes.

With regular pilot Dominador "Rapid Fire" Borbe Jr. bumping and grinding to the hilt, Gold Edition (Perspective-Thorn of Gold) caught last year's champion Hazmoore in the final strides to win by half a length.

Sky Hawk finished another half a length behind Hazmoore for third, while Heavenly landed fourth.

To one and all, a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!

TWO strong candidates for next year's induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame—Kurt Bachmann Jr. and Loreto "Bonnie" Carbonell—lead a most unpromising beginning. Bonnie did not even know how to play basketball during his younger years because he was playing volleyball while Kurt's first sports were table tennis and soccer. But with their sheer athleticism they became famous, emerging as two of the most dominant cagers during their heyday. Herewith with are some highlights of their great basketball career beginning with Kurt:

Kurt Bachmann Jr., was born on July 18, 1936 in Manila to Kurt Bachmann Sr., a German national, and Alice Streegan from Jaro, Iloilo. An only child, he belonged to an affluent family and thus had a nice, cheery, childhood unlike the impoverished life many other children endured. Kurt finished grade school at San Beda then transferred to La Salle where he took up his secondary and college education.

His uncle, Henry Streegan, a pre-war junior basketball player of Letran, opened his eyes to basketball while Bro. Bernardino, SSC, a former modera-

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



tor of La Salle, encouraged him to play the game. Kurt started his cage career in the Archdiocesan Athletic League (AAL). In 1955, he was team captain of La Salle's high school quintet that won the junior championship of the NCAA, then the country's most popular and widely followed basketball tournament. The following year, he sparked the Green Archers to the NCAA senior championship winning at the same time the MVP award.

Being the son of a German citizen, Kurt's citizenship was always questioned whenever he was named

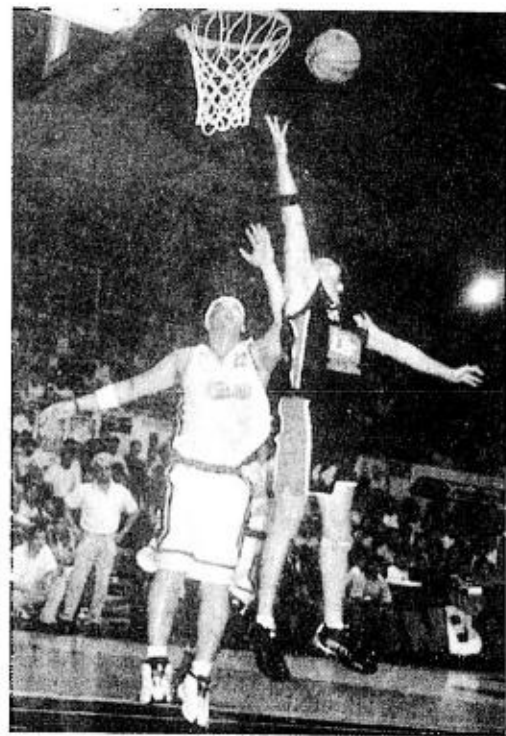
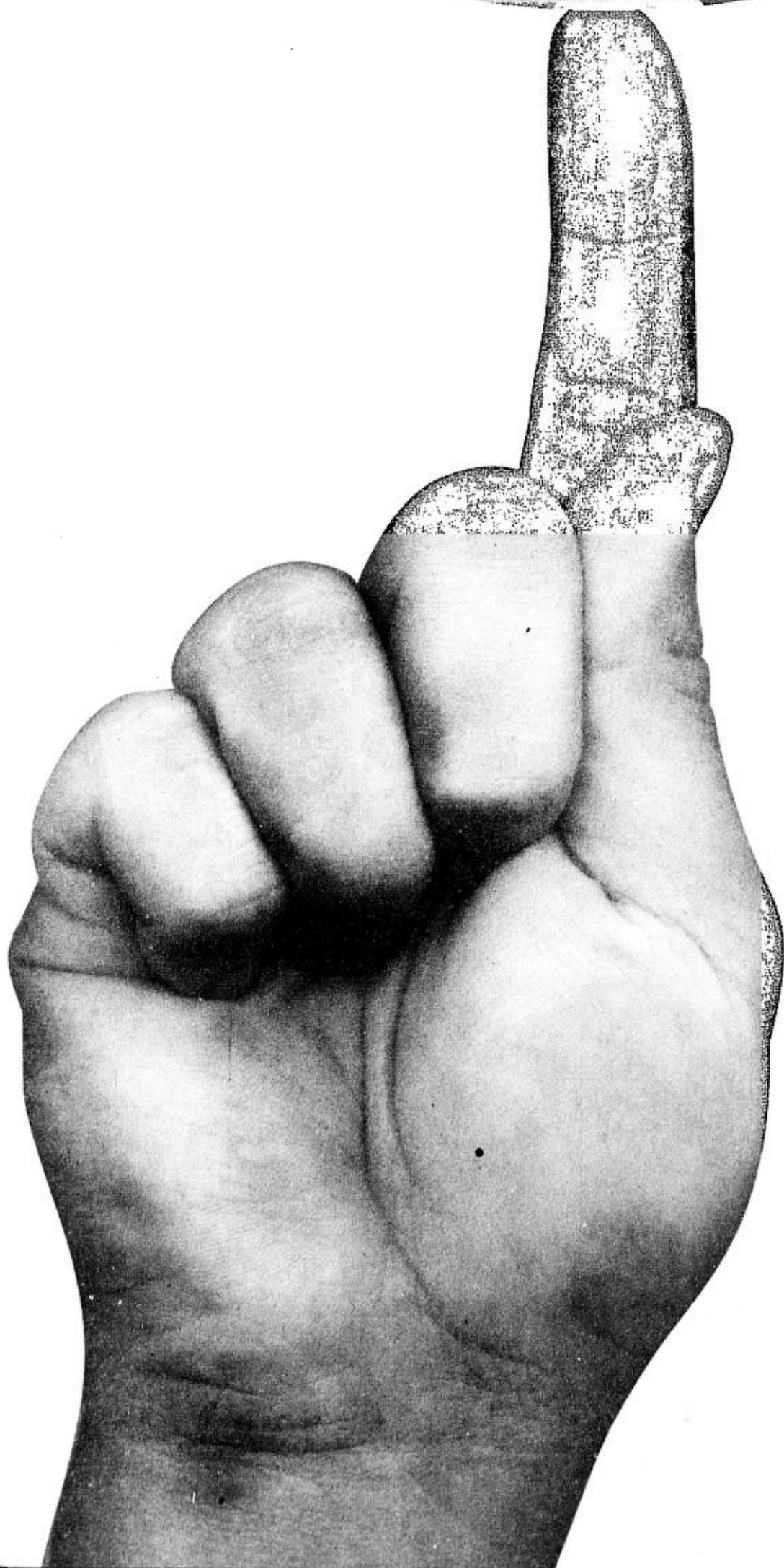
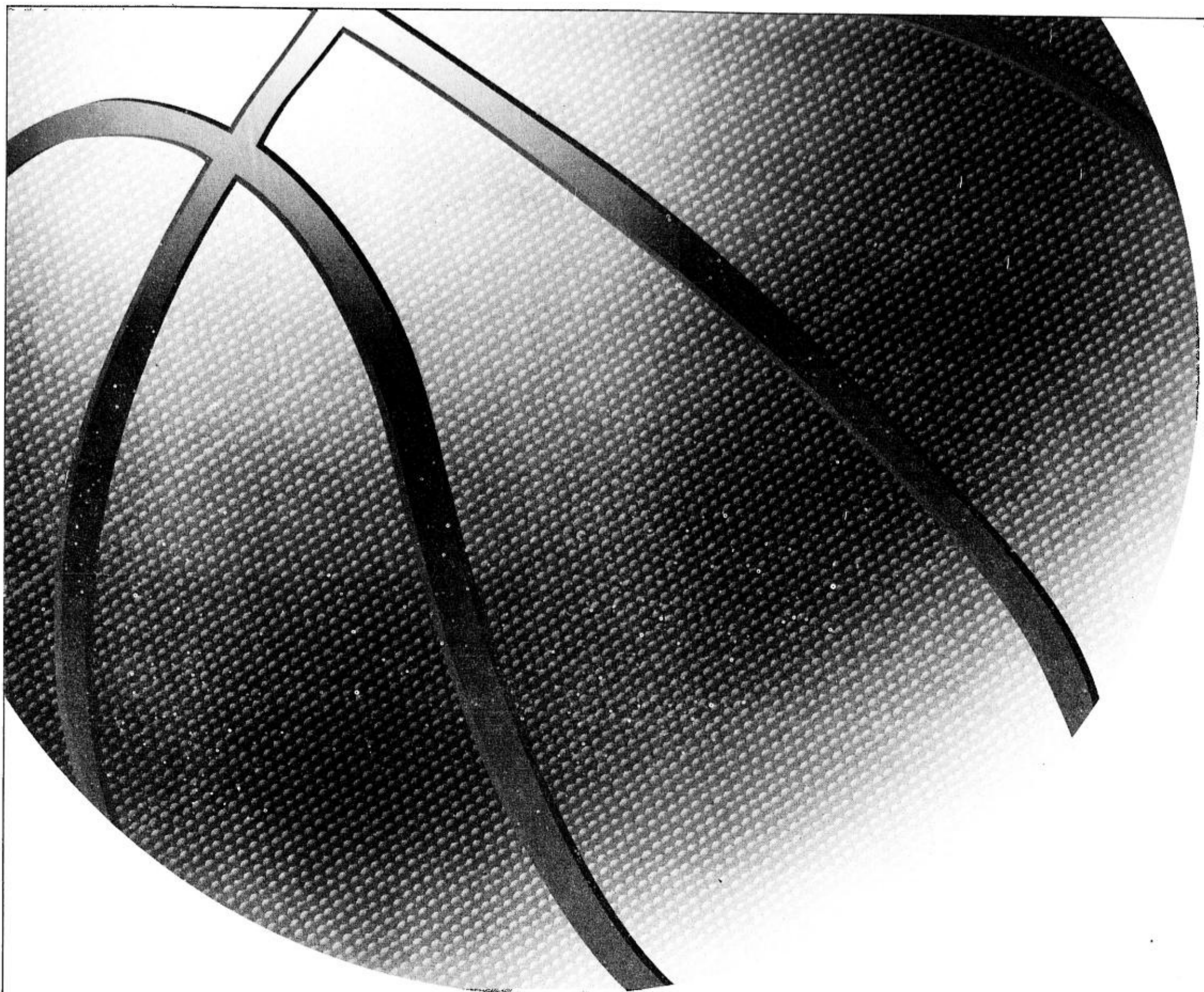
to the Philippine team. It was resolved when he decided to become a Filipino when he was 18 in 1954. From then on, he was always selected to the national teams beginning in the 1958 Asian Games in Tokyo where the Philippines won the title and in the 1959 World Basketball Championship in Chile where the country finished ninth.

While the Philippine team was on its way to Chile, it played powerhouse United States. During that game, Kurt whose forte was the hookshot impressed American hookshot icon and LA Laker star Lew Alcindor (now known as Kareem Abdul Jabbar). His coach in La Salle, Rogelio LaO, taught him the use of the hookshot which LaO learned from viewing a 16 mm film of Bob Cousy, a member of the many time NBA champion Boston Celtics. Kurt continued carrying the colors in the late 1950s until early 1960. He was member of the Philippine teams that won the first ABC (Asian Basketball Confederation) crown in 1960 in Manila and the Asian Games titles in 1958 in Tokyo and 1962 in Jakarta. Kurt also competed in the 1960 Olympics in Rome.



HERMIE'S TROPHY

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo applauds as sportsman-businessman Hermie Esguerra holds the Presidential Gold Cup after his horse Wind Blown won the 29th running of the country's most prestigious race last Dec. 16 at the Santa Ana Park. Also shown, from left, are Virgilio Angelo, PCSP vice chair and general manager; Ma. Livia de Leon, PCSP chair; and jockey Pat Dilema.



DEFINITELY THEIR BEST DELIVERY YET

The 1st in Pre-need Pension Plans
congratulates its partner, LBC and its team,
the LBC Batangas Blades, for winning
the MBA 2001 National Finals.



**Call all you want for
as LOW as P2.00/minute*
on Christmas Day!**



Now's the time to call all those dear to you
and catch up on the latest with our special
Globe Handyphone-to-Globe Handyphone
Christmas rates. A low P3.00 a minute for
Prepaid, Advantage and Personal Plans.
And an even lower P2.00 a minute for
Business, Executive and CEO Plan
subscribers. It's our way of thanking and
wishing you and your loved ones
a very Merry Christmas.



Valid only on December 25, 2001, from 12:01 a.m. to 12 m.n.

*All rates are VAT inclusive

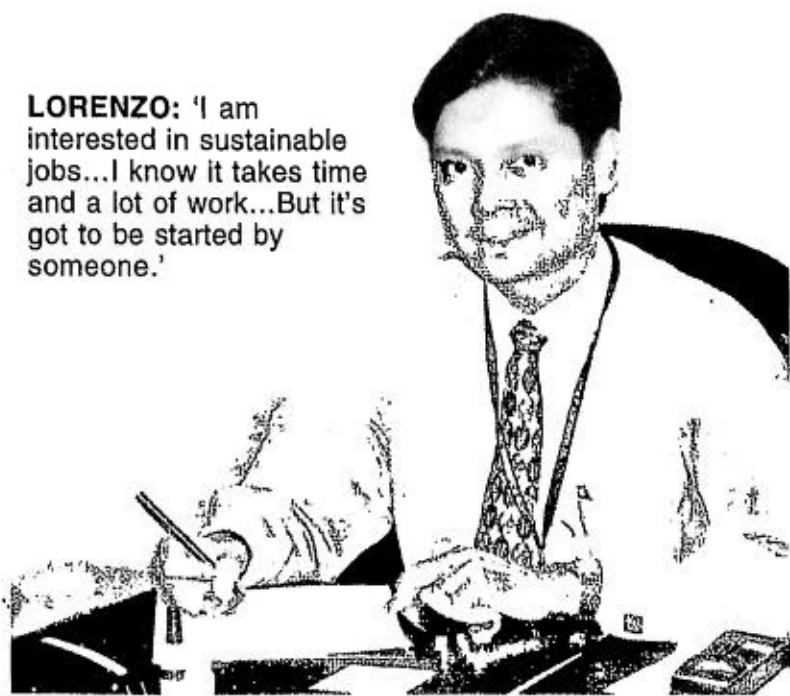
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4406, Series of 2001.

Globe
HANDYPHONE

ALL YOU'LL EVER NEED

Hotline: 730-1000 / www.globe.com.ph

LORENZO: 'I am interested in sustainable jobs...I know it takes time and a lot of work...But it's got to be started by someone.'



Santa Claus bringing promise of 1 M jobs

BY NINI VALERA

IN HER State of the Nation Address delivered last July 23 in the first regular session of the 12th Congress, President Macapagal-Arroyo said "there can be a million new jobs (for Filipinos) in agriculture and fisheries within the year," and she vowed to approach this with a sense of urgency.

"I do not want the 1 million new jobs to come in the long term," she said. "I want to identify accountabilities. I want milestones."

The first step in realizing this vision was to appoint Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. as presidential adviser for the creation of 1 million new jobs.

Lorenzo, a boyish-looking 43-year-old, is no stranger to challenges. He is chair and chief executive officer of La Panday Foods Corp., and chair of Del Monte Philippines Inc., which his family had bought and renamed Del Monte Pacific.

The company owns the rights to (market to) the Indian Sub-Continent and all the countries around India. It owns the Del Monte facilities in the Philippines and has the right to market in the Philippines. It has a relation-

ship with Europe, the US and parts of Asia, which the company supplies with products. It also owns trademark rights to the Del Monte name for process applications, where "you cook the product basically or you convert it from its fresh forms."

How Lorenzo managed to gain control of one of the biggest global food processing companies is part of his formidable track record that has made him fit for the role of presidential adviser for 1 million jobs, which he accepted without a salary.

"I prefer it that way," he said. "I do not have any political agenda. My interest is to help. It ends there."

"You know, I sit here and for the last 20 years, I've taken on different roles (in the business)."

"I've complained about government. I'm now in my early 40s and I want to tell myself that I've done my best to effect a reform agenda in our country to help build a skill pool."

"In other words, if I've proven that I can employ people successfully in a globally competitive environment under an agriculture orientation in a rural setting, maybe I can do that as well, given that agricul-

SANTA CLAUS/A18

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Korina Sanchez beat me up, says maid

'This is her way of getting back at me,' says newscaster

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESQUERRA AND LEAH SALTERIO

BAD news for ABS-CBN newscaster and radio talk show host Korina Sanchez. A housemaid yesterday accused Sanchez and her reported boyfriend of beating her up when she told them she wanted to leave.

Bernardita Inocencio, 42, accused Sanchez and her supposed boyfriend, Paul Aquino, in a two-page complaint she filed with the Makati City police.

Sanchez yesterday afternoon sent statement to the INQUIRER. "For the record," she said, "I filed charges of qualified theft and public scandal against her (Inocencio). This is probably her way of getting back at me."

"In the supposed incident, I was not even physically present and had to seek the help of the police to detain her," Sanchez's statement said.

"The investigation is going on right now and hopefully, this will put the matter to rest."

Inocencio said Sanchez hit her in the face with a slipper and Aquino also hit her and slammed her on the floor. She said she suffered two lumps on the head and a swollen left elbow.

The maid said the beating came after she told Sanchez and Aquino she was planning to leave Sanchez's employ.

Inocencio said Sanchez and Aquino insulted, humiliated and threw her out of Aquino's unit at



SANCHEZ



INOCENCIO

the Bel-Air Condominium on P. Burgos Street in Poblacion, Makati last Friday.

The maid said she worked for Sanchez in the latter's unit at the Emerald Mansions in Pasig City for more than two months. She told police she wanted to leave since she "could no longer endure" the way Sanchez was treating her.

She said her broadcaster employer would often shout at her and would poke her head with a finger to emphasize an insult.

Inocencio said her monthly salary of P3,500 was often delayed for about 10 days.

She said that last Dec. 21, she told Sanchez and Aquino about her plan to leave and then she asked for

her full salary for the month.

Inocencio said Sanchez got enraged and threw a slipper at her. She was hit in the right cheek, she said.

She said Sanchez was about to throw cheesecake at her but Aquino restrained the broadcaster.

The maid said Sanchez then phoned Inocencio's agency and informed its secretary that Inocencio was planning to leave and that she would just pay her salary the following week.

Inocencio said her agency advised her not to leave Sanchez yet. But a fuming Aquino forced her to leave, the maid said.

She said that when she asked for money, Aquino shouted at her and cursed her.

She said she turned to Sanchez but the latter shouted at her, "P—ng ina mo, ang kulit mo!" while poking a middle finger at the maid's head.

Inocencio said Aquino then hit her in the head, grabbed her by the shoulder and slammed her on the floor.

Inocencio said in her complaint that she urinated in her pants out of fear.

She said Aquino grabbed her again and threw her out of the Bel-Air condo unit.

After Inocencio signed her official statement at the Makati police headquarters, Sanchez called on the telephone, apologized and offered to amicably settle the matter, the maid said.

KORINA SANCHEZ/A18

www.pldt.com.ph

PLDT
convergence@home



24¢ a minute lang, makakapag-carolling ka na sa Canada

ITO ANG TAWAG NA PASOK SA BUDGET MO. 24¢ a minute lang within 24 hours of activation ang tawag sa US, Canada at Hawaii.

ANG DALING GAMITIN:

1. I-scratch ang likod ng PLDT Budget Card at kunin ang 12-digit card number.
2. Mula sa PLDT touch tone phone, i-dial ang 101010 para sa PLDT Budget Card Interactive Voice Response System.

3. I-dial ang 12-digit card number at antaying ma-validate ito.
4. I-dial 00 + Country Code + Area Code + Telephone Number ng iyong tatawagan.
5. Para tumawag sa iba, ibaba ang telepono at ulitin ang steps 2 to 4.

* Now available sa mga PLDT Business Office, 7-11, SM Supermalls at distributors, McGala, Ackers, Widtech, Gate and e-pay nationwide. *For more info, tumawag sa PLDT 171 Customer Service Hotline.

24¢
per minute
within 24 hours

Subdivision residents demand closure of bar

BY AGNES DONATO

RESIDENTS of the posh Acropolis Greens Subdivision in Quezon City have demanded the immediate closure of a bar and restaurant on E. Rodriguez Avenue for "loud and unbearable noise."

In a petition addressed to Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., more than 200 residents claimed

that the management of Po Na Bar and Restaurant had "totally disregarded" their requests to tone down the bar's loud music by installing noise abatement devices and sound insulators.

The Acropolis Greens Homeowners Association had started complaining as early as last May, and had since participated in three public hearings with the Po Na

Bar management.

The disturbances, the homeowners said, begin regularly at about 11 p.m. and last until about 4 a.m.

"Since our initial complaints failed to resolve the problem, the loud and disturbing and unhealthy noises continue unabated," the Acropolis residents said.

The petition also cited the cases

of three residents who have transferred to other subdivisions because of the "offending" noise. It added that many other residents are thinking of moving out of their present homes.

But in a letter to the homeowners association president Billie Pilar, Po Na Na managing director Aaron Isip guaranteed that "the sound proofing of (the restaurant) is 95 percent

complete."

"Please be assured that all our agreements are being met. You are all invited to inspect our establishment anytime," Isip said.

This assurance, however, was still unacceptable to the residents, who also pointed out alleged irregularities in the restaurant operations.

Po Na Na Bar, they said, was ille-

gally operating as a disco-restaurant when its business permit is only for a bar and restaurant.

They said that the bar's lack of adequate parking space for its customers also causes traffic jams on Wednesdays, Fridays and weekends "because its customers' vehicles allegedly occupy two lanes of the three-lane street fronting the establishment."

From Rino & Rose: The Christmas Envelope

WE happen to be caught in that most frenzied period of the year, the day before Christmas. It's all rush, run, and rush. But before you even think of devising an escape from this swirling maze of madness and merriment, kindly pause and share with me this tiny package.

It's originally called The Christmas Envelope, a heartwarming holiday tale sent all the way from snowy Alaska. It's not about dear old Santa. The sender: our dear old friends Rino Salazar, better known as the deputy to coach Bobby Jaworski (thank you very much, Mr. Senator, for again remembering us this season) in the old Ginebra team, and his gem of a wife, Rose.

The Salazars are now settled in the United States. And this is their way of sharing the Christmas cheer, quietly and sincerely, with all their friends, the original Ginebra team fans included.

It's not every Christmas that we come across a gem of a tale with this cheerful, assuring glow. Hope you will find time to also share it with others.

Please read:

It's a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past 10 years or so.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas—oh, not the true meaning of Christmas but the commercial aspects of it—overspending, the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting feather for Grandma—the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike.

The inspiration came in an unusual way.

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



Our son Kevin, who was 12 years that year, was wrestling at the junior level at the school he attended; and shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church, mostly black. These youngsters, wearing sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect the wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford.

Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. And as each of their boys got up from the mat, he swaggered around in his tatters with false bravado, a kind of street pride that couldn't acknowledge defeat.

Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly. "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids—all kids—and he knew them, having coached little league football, baseball and lacrosse.

That's when the idea for his present came. That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church.

On Christmas Eve, I placed the envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done and this

was his gift from me. His smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year and in succeeding years.

For each Christmas, I followed the tradition, one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on. The envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning and our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents.

As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the envelope never lost its allure.

The story doesn't end there.

You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree and, in the morning, it was joined by three more. Each of our children, unbeknownst to the others, had placed an envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing around the tree with wide-eyed anticipation, watching as their fathers take down the envelope.

Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit, will always be with us.

That's it. I'm sure you will all be touched and inspired by that story.

Rino and Rose, meanwhile, have a simple wish: "May we all remember Christ, who is the reason for the season, and the true Christmas spirit this year and always."

And from all of us in this simple quiet place by the Pasig: Merry Christmas to all. May this season of peace be truly peaceful for all of you.

Police visibility in Binondo fails to stop daylight robbery

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

DESPITE the much touted police visibility in Binondo, Manila, a reporter of The Manila Standard was robbed yesterday after attending Sunday Mass at Sta. Cruz church.

Reporter Joel Locsin, who is covering the National Bureau of Investigation and the Western Police District, said he lost more than P1,500 to two men yesterday afternoon inside a pedicab.

He described one of the robbers as medium built, brown-complexioned, between 5'2" to 5'3" tall, in his mid 40s, and wearing eye glasses, a stripe green shirt, cream colored shorts and white rubber shoes and socks.

He said the suspect also had a tattoo of a dragon in his shoulder. But Locsin could not describe well the other suspect, who drove the pedicab.

Curiously, the suspects did not take Locsin's other valuables, like his Nokia

3210 cellular phone and his watch.

Locsin said he was on his way home after attending Mass and was walking on the bridge between Juan Luna and San Fernando streets in Binondo about 2:30 p.m. when one of the robbers approached him. He said the suspect told him that he had an invitation to give to Locsin's father whom he claimed to know.

Locsin entertained the suspect out of courtesy, saying that the Filipino-Chinese community in Binondo is close-knit and it would have been embarrassing if he did not recognize the man.

He said the two of them then boarded the pedicab waiting at the end of the bridge, which was driven by the other suspect. They drove around for about ten minutes as the robber asked for his home address and telephone number, Locsin said. He said the suspect even borrowed his cell phone and tried to use it, but returned it to him because the

battery was running low.

"Then, in so many words, he told me to give up my money," Locsin said. He said the suspect even told him he was lucky that they did not "turn him over to another group" and added that they had been trailing the reporter.

"I even told him that I needed the money for my nephews and nieces," Locsin said. But the suspect did not listen and even threatened Locsin, saying he was an "ex-convict." The robbers then dropped off Locsin unharmed along Madrid Street and told him "to charge it to experience" before they escaped.

Locsin said this was not the first time he was robbed. He said he was mugged along Taft Avenue only in July. "But that was before the police bragged about their high visibility program," he said.

But a rookie policeman was said to be at the bridge where Locsin was robbed at the time of the robbery.

Rob suspects from Davao City prey on shoppers in Divisoria

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

TWO alleged snatchers from Davao City wanted to try the "greener pastures" in Manila and prey on helpless shoppers in Divisoria.

Fortunately, members of the Western Police District (WPD) arrested the suspects, Ciriaco Dy, 53; and Giovanni Flores, 28; both of Piapi Boulevard in Davao City after they were caught slashing the bag of a female shopper in Divisoria on Saturday night, said police Insp. Napoleon Coner, WPD-theft and robbery section head.

But the victim recovered her belongings and did not want to file charges against the two men, who were armed with fan knives, police said. She told police she was trying to finish her Christmas shopping about 10:30 p.m. Saturday when the suspects, who mingled with the crowd, slashed open her bag.

Three alert WPD policemen, SPO2

Renato M. Perez, PO3 Macaraig, SPO1 Carillo, and SPO1 Vivar, saw the incident, catching the suspects red handed.

The valuables the suspects took from their victim were returned, and the suspects were later brought to the WPD headquarters for investigation.

The suspects told police they arrived in Manila on the last week of November and rented a house in Parañaque.

"We've encountered cases like these where people from the provinces come here in Manila just to rob shoppers," said SPO2 Perez, one of the policemen who caught the suspects.

The WPD has tried to enhance police visibility in shopping malls after a bomb was discovered in the financial district of Makati on Friday. Police are also trying to maintain peace and order during the traditional dawn masses, which have become the scene of fights between warring teenage street gangs.

German, wife, driver robbed at flyover

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A GERMAN, his Filipino wife and their driver lost over P230,000 in cash and personal property to several robbers in Pasay City, police said.

George Haenel, 47, of Mandaluyong City, his wife Emnane, 23, and driver Emilio Espinosa, 58, were robbed by unidentified suspects on board a black car at the Buendia flyover on Roxas Boulevard about 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, police said.

Investigation shoed Haenel had just arrived from abroad and immediately proceeded to a moneychanger on Mabini Street in Manila.

Police said that unknown to Haenel and his companions, the robbers had been trailing their vehicle from the airport to Manila.

At the Buendia flyover, the suspects blocked the Haenels vehicle and took their cash and personal property at gunpoint, police said.

Korina Sanchez beat me up, says housemaid

(From page A17)

But a defiant Inocencio told her employer in Filipino: "You should have apologized much earlier. You treat your housemaids like animals. Well, this 'stupid' housemaid has just filed a complaint against you."

Inocencio said Sanchez promised to send her driver to deliver the maid's December pay at the police station yes-

terday afternoon.

Before she hung up on Sanchez, Inocencio told her that Inquirer reporter Esguerra would talk to the broadcaster to get her side.

But when Esguerra took the receiver, Sanchez hung up.

Instead, Sanchez sent a statement to the INQUIRER to deny Inocencio's allegations.

Sanchez said she submitted her com-

plaint against Inocencio last Friday afternoon to PO3 Dionisio Gabuya of the District Intelligence and Investigation Division (DIID) in Fort Bonifacio.

Gabuya told the Inquirer they received a call from Sanchez's boyfriend Aquino around 2 p.m. Friday. He said Aquino requested for an investigator to come to his condo unit house, complaining that Inocencio had gone berserk.

"Minutes after we got there, Ms Sanchez also arrived," Gabuya said. "She said her gold bracelet was missing, but she did not tell us how much it was worth. That's why the charge of qualified theft was filed against the maid."

Gabuya said Aquino had "borrowed" Inocencio from Sanchez. "But Mr. Aquino said nagwawala daw 'yung maid at makulit. She wanted to leave. So he asked for our help."

Santa Claus bringing promise of 1 M jobs

(From page A17)

ture seems to be in fashion at this time, and given the slowdown of the economy globally.

Bukidnon baby

From the time he was a few-month-old baby until he was 12, Lorenzo lived in Bukidnon. He studied at the local Xavier School then transferred to the Ateneo De Manila halfway in high school. He enrolled at the Economics honors program of the Ateneo, but shifted to the Business Management honors program.

His first job was at Procter and Gamble Philippines, where he worked his way up to assistant brand manager, launching Tide sa Baretta (Tide Bar Soap) in the local market. He quit his job at P&G to go to Wharton School where his dorm roommate was Vince Perez, now energy secretary.

"I was in Wharton enrolled in International business and finance," he related. "I was in school at the same time as some of the Cabinet secretaries who were in the East Coast...Mar (Roxas, trade secretary), Vince, and Lito (Camacho, finance secretary) was in Boston."

Between his first and second years in the Wharton MBA program, Lorenzo worked in Wall Street but found himself a small fish in an ocean of sharks. He did not make his first million on Wall Street, but earned his first serious money as an entrepreneur in New York City where he formed a firm that bought gutted down apartments and converted them into livable townhomes in Brooklyn Heights.

"It was a prospect market," he explained. "We were prospecting. But really, it was the ownership of La Panday, working closely and turning it around, trimming down debt and moving forward, that got us down to where we are today."

Tapping agriculture

In hurdling the task of creating 1 million new jobs, Lorenzo draws from his experience in La Panday, giving agriculture a global perspective and turning

around a feudal mindset into a market-driven, progressive outlook with strong focus on self-sufficiency. That he's tapping the agriculture sector in creating these jobs is a natural turn of event for Lorenzo, who admitted to have taken formidable risks when he acquired on a leverage buyout a banana plantation in Davao owned by the Ayala Corp. and the Aboitiz group of Cebu.

"Perhaps, if I look back now, I would have been more cautious," he said. "But maybe, I had a guardian angel then... I still have, but you know, I hired, changed agents, at least five of them, changed management because it was a polarized structure and the business wasn't running. So we got people, who, I found out to my shock when I got there, were running it or had structured the farm with a shadow government run by the CCP-NPA on the outskirts of Davao. Once or twice a week, the workers would leave their jobs to demonstrate on external, non-relevant issues as far as the people were concerned. And they were on the frontlines—the anti-Marcos bases, the nuclear issue, whatever anti-Marcos movement."

"I had no choice but to let them go on. Management had lost control over the people. I had to change that. I had to get people from the outside, and convince and win the hearts and minds of the people and adopt a non-active, non-violent, middle-of-the-road approach."

Power show

The global success of La Panday and Del Monte is another story, but it's a tale that Lorenzo would invariably tell and draw examples from in explaining how he hopes to get those 1 million jobs Ms Macapagal had promised the Filipinos about six months ago.

On the last week of November, Lorenzo, armed with a PowerPoint presentation and the maths for his job creation program, presented his plans for generating a million jobs to Ms Macapagal and her Cabinet.

Right now, he has 890,000 jobs on

paper. That the jobs see life outside of the PowerPoint presentation is the challenge looming ahead of

Lorenzo, whose optimism and faith in humanity has not wavered despite the concerns and the lack of government funding for the job creation program.

"There is a budget on paper," he said, "but the money is slow in coming. Perhaps for now, that is the way because there are trust commitments that have to be met where the budget would have to be channeled. It's not only having a budget, but also having cash against it."

"Now, she (Ms Macapagal) called me and told me that from the President's social fund, she'd like to help me on the hybrid rice program. In effect, she is doing what she can, given the limitations today, in genuine cash. She's got the internal revenue allotment, all of these local government units... she's under-spending her budget allotment. That means the deficit is going to be smaller."

Discipline and priming

"There are two schools of thought. One is you want to instill discipline today so that you set a trend for the future. You only spend what you earn," Lorenzo continued.

"On the other hand, when you're running a government where the economy is shrinking, you do have to do some priming because the cash flow, properly focused, can have a multiplier effect that could have a significant activity exponentially for the society at large, rather than be tight on spending. Now, that is something she has come to grips with."

"My mandate is jobs, and she's helping me the best as she can, given the limited scenario."

What Lorenzo has done is look at working with Landbank, the only government financial institution that provides the agricultural sector with loans for capital.

"Landbank is the only real conduit this time," Lorenzo noted. "Many of

the borrowers in the private sector have to go through various stages of restructuring of their loans. If they have a viable project, they need working capital. Credit is critical. We have to come up with creative approaches, credit availability."

"One way, for example, is for local government units who have identified projects to put IRA money on them, congressmen to put in Countrywide Development Fund money as capital so that they can have leverage, provided the project looks viable. So that they can get more out of it, so that their 1 peso can become 4 pesos at the end of the day."

Multinational

A publicly listed company in Singapore, Del Monte Pacific does not pay a franchise fee to anybody and does not report to anybody except to a board elected by the shareholders of Del Monte Pacific, according to Lorenzo, who grew up in the Bukidnon farm of Del Monte, which his late father had managed.

"Let's just say we are a shareholder of Del Monte," he said. "I guess it's a regional multinational. We don't own land... We own Del Monte for the region. That company now owns assets or it's got a global mindset. It's taken a life of its own."

"In the region, we're looking at Thailand, China, Singapore... Let's just say we are in control of the Asian markets."

Said Lorenzo of gigantic task: "I am interested in sustainable jobs. I am interested in raising the standard of cost effectiveness and profitability and teaching the farmers or the co-ops to become self-sufficient."

"Okay, I know it takes time and a lot of work and a lot of effort. But it's got to be started by someone."

That someone, hopefully, would be Lorenzo, who could be the much-awaited Santa Claus 1 million Filipinos and their dependents have been waiting for, this Christmas and in other seasons.

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Monday, December 24, 2001
4th Week of Advent

1st Reading: 2 S 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
Gospel: Lk 1:67-79

Zachariah, filled with holy spirit, sang this canticle, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has come and redeemed his people."

He has raised up for us a victorious Savior in the house of David his servant, as he promised through his prophets of old, salvation from our enemies and from the hand of our foes.

He has shown mercy to our fathers and remembered his holy covenant, the oath he swore to Abraham, our father, to deliver us from the enemy, that we might serve him fearlessly as a holy and righteous people all the days of our lives.

And you, my child, shall be called prophet of the Most High, for you shall go before the Lord to prepare the way for him and enable his people to know of their salvation when he comes to forgive their sins.

This is the work of the mercy of our God, who comes from on high as a rising sun shining on those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, and guiding our feet into the way of peace."

Commentary

John's father recovers his lost speech and sings a canticle to God. The originality of this hymn is the proclamation that the Lord has visited and redeemed his people. Salvation is something that is now taking place in the midst of the people of Israel. Something latent in them will enlighten us, who live in darkness, leading us into the way to peace. It is the Messianic promise being realized here and now. Tomorrow, we shall celebrate Christmas, an oft repeated event. But, isn't this yearly celebration a constant reminder of the saving power of God who is present in history? This was what Zachariah learned to see in spite of his blindness.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@enl.net; Websites: <http://www.bible.claret.org> (Claretian Publications Inc.) & <http://missionaries.claret.org> (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—General rule that only questions of law may be raised in a petition for review; exceptions—While, as a general rule, only questions of law may be raised in a petition for review under Rule 45 of the Rules of Court, review may nevertheless be granted under certain exceptions, namely: (a) when the conclusion is a finding grounded entirely on speculation, surmises, or conjectures; (b) when the inference made is manifestly mistaken, absurd, or impossible; (c) where there is a grave abuse of discretion; (d) when the judgment is based on a misapprehension of facts; (e) when the findings of fact are conflicting; (f) when the Court of Appeals, in making its findings, went beyond the issue of the case and the same is contrary to the admissions of both appellant and appellee; (g) when the findings of the Court of Appeals are contrary to those of the trial courts; (h) when the findings of fact are conclusions without citation of specific evidence on which they are based; (i) when the facts set forth in the petition as well as in the petitioner's main and reply briefs are not disputed by the respondents; (j) when the finding of fact of the Court of Appeals is premised on the supposed absence of evidence but is contradicted by the evidence on record; and (k) when the Court of Appeals manifestly overlooked certain relevant facts not disputed by the parties and which, if properly considered, would justify a different conclusion. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, Martinez v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 123547, May 21, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Mega wins a million

VIVA TV has informed us that its popular quiz show, "Who Wants to Be A Millionaire," has found its second million-peso winner—and she's none other than the Megastar herself Sharon Cuneta!

For proof positive, the taped Christmas Day edition of the show in which Sharon won her cool million bucks will be aired at 8:30 p.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, Dec. 25, on IBC 13.

Other celebrity contestants who competed in the Christmas Day telecast include Rufa Mae Quinto (she won P300,000) and Sen. Juan Flavier (P200,000). Part of the money Sharon, Rufa Mae and Sen. Flavier won will go to charity.

VIEWFINDER

Want to see if you can do as well as Sharon? Here are the questions she was asked, with four choices of answers for each question. Underline your answer for every question, then compare your choices with the correct answers at the end of this piece. Don't peek —



Nestor U. Torre

play fair!:

1. *Aling uri ng bag ang karaniwang dinadala sa camping?* a. evening bag b. backpack 3. suitcase d. garment bag.

2. *Aling symbol ang nasa isang pangkaraniwang landphone?* a. asterisk b. arrow c. sun d. slash.

3. *Ano ang kadalasang hugis ng bala ng VCD?* a. diamond b. triangle c. hexagon d. round.

4. *Alin ang maaaring maging description sa isang taong hindi mapagkakatiwalaan ang motibo?* a. shrimp b. beefy c. fishy d. chicken.

5. *Kumpletuhin ang sikat na kasabihang "It takes two to ____."* a. waltz b. rumba c. tango d. charleston.

6. *Sino ang direktor ng pelikulang "Tatarin?"* a. Jose Javier Reyes b. Marilou Diaz-Abaya c. Joel Lamanagn d. Tikoy Aguiluz.

7. *Ano ang meroon sa earth na wala sa buwan?* a. craters b. rocks c. liquid water d. American flag.

8. *Ayon sa animated movie, sino ang nagbigay ng buhay kay Pinocchio?* a. Fairy god-mother b. Blue fairy c. Good Witch of the North d. Snow Queen.

9. *Alin sa mga sumusunod ay inawit ni Raymond Lauchengco para sa pelikulang "Bagets?"* a. "Be My Lady" b. "Farewell" c. "Betty's in Bed" d. "Bakit Ba Ganyan?"

10. *Ano ang apelyido ni Romeo sa Shakespearean play na "Romeo and Juliet?"* a. Verona b. Capone c. Montague d. Montana.

11. *Nag-retire si Magic Johnson sa NBA matapos ibunyag na siya ay positive sa pagkakaroon ng anong virus?* a. Diabetes Mellitus b. Ebola virus c. HIV d. Belle's Palsy.

12. *Ano ang tawag sa high-speed train na unang ginamit sa Japan?* a. Concorde Express b. Bullet train c. Amtrak d. Diesel electric train.

13. *Ni-record ni Christopher de Leon ang awiting "Every Breath You Take" kasama ng local singing group na ito.* a. Three of A Kind b. Jeremiah c. Apo Hiking Society d. Men and Music.

14. *Ano ang kinikilalang unang major documentary film na ginawa ni Robert Flaherty noong 1922?* a. "Hoop Dreams" b. "City of Gold" c. "Nanook of the North" d. "Primate."

(Sharon used her lifelines for question 6 (50-50), 8 (Ask the Audience) and 14 (Phone A Friend). She stopped at question 14 for a cool million, and declined to go on to question 15 for P2 M. The 15th question was:

Saang bansa naganap ang kauna-unahang Winter Olympics? a. Switzerland b. USA c. Austria d. France.

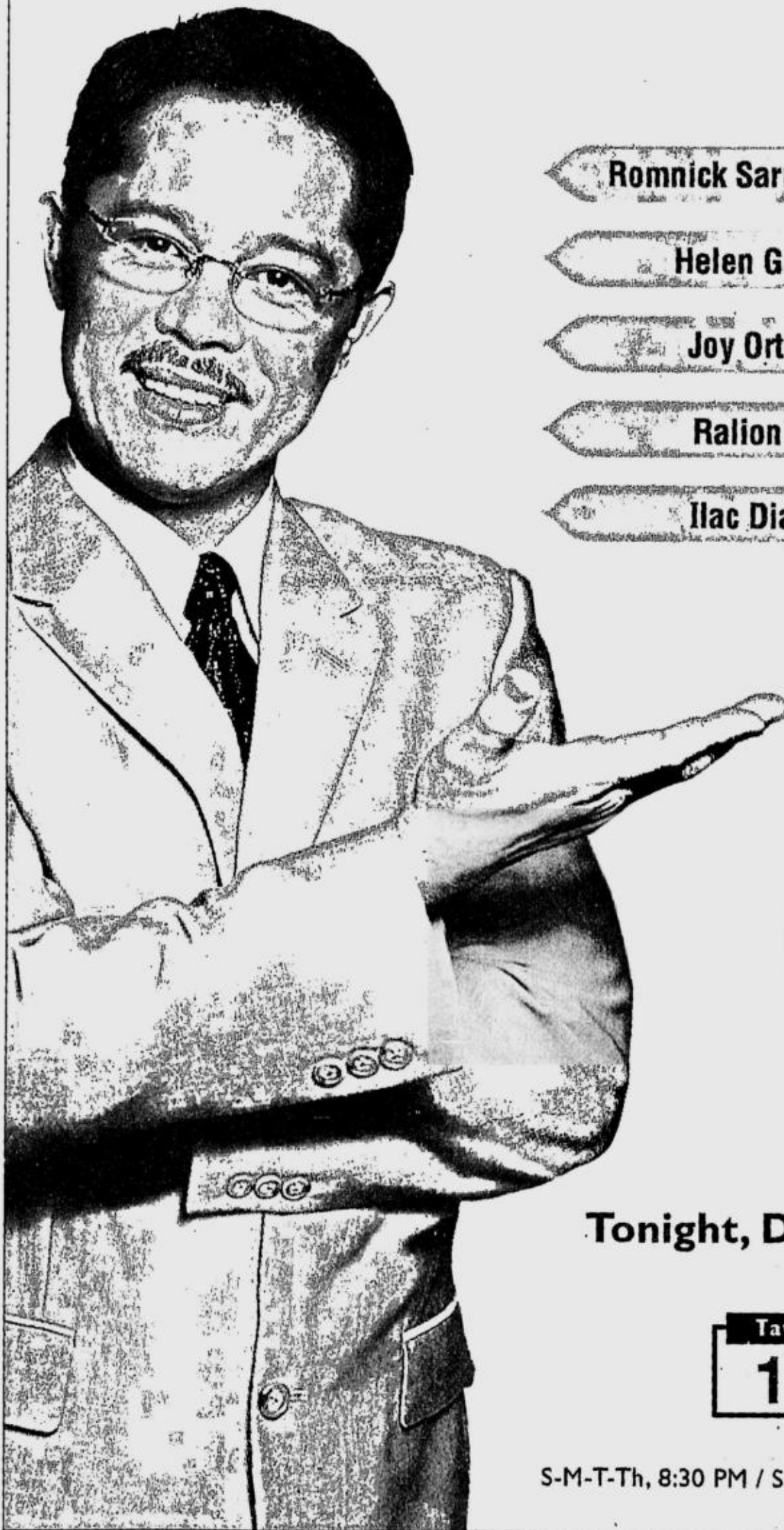
OK? Now check your answers with these correct ones: 1. b, backpack 2. a, asterisk 3. d, round 4. c, fishy 5. c, tango 6. d, Tikoy Aguiluz 7. c, liquid water 8. b, Blue fairy 9. b, "Farewell" 10. c, Montague 11. c, HIV 12. b, Bullet train 13. a, Three of A Kind 14. c, "Nanook of the North."

As for question 15, which Sharon decided not to answer, the correct response is: d, France.

So, how did you do? How much money did you "win"? If you didn't do as well as Sharon, you can watch her tomorrow night—with new respect!

Merry Christmas!

Ngayong bisperas ng Pasko, may nakahaing premyo sa mga celebrity families na ito.



Romnick Sarmenta & Harlene Bautista

Helen Gamboa & Ciara Sotto

Joy Ortega & Cong. Ortega

Ralion & Chinggoy Alonzo

Ilac Diaz & Robin Da Rosa



Tonight, December 24, 8:30 PM

Tawag Na!

1-908-1-000-000

S-M-T-Th, 8:30 PM / Sun, 8 PM

vivatv IBC

Radio special

105.1 Crossover bring you a yearly holiday tradition, as Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Goofy, Pluto and Snow White and all your other favorite Disney characters gather around the Disney World fireplace in Orlando, Florida, to bring you "A Merry Christmas from Walt Disney World."

Tune in to 105.1 Crossover on Dec. 25, 12 to 3 p.m. and share holiday memories with your Disney friends with "A Merry Christmas from Walt Disney World."

ONE RING.
ONE CINEMA.



JANUARY 1, 2002

ONE RING ONE CINEMA



There's a career in here.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB MARKET

When you need it
www.inquirer.net/jobmarket



Pagsaluhan po natin ngayong Pasko.

Sa pagtatapos ng taon, malugod po kaming nagpapasalamat sa buong sambayanan sa patuloy ninyong pagtaguyod at pagsubaybay sa aming mga programa.

Kasabay na rin po ang aming pakikibahagi sa mga natamo at inani naming papuri.

Sa totoo lang po, sa taong ito ay mahigit sa isandaan ang nakamit na parangal ng inyong paboritong network.

Pagsaluhan po natin at lasapin ang sarap ng ating tagumpay.

Maligayang Pasko at Mapayapang Bagong Taon sa inyong lahat.

At maraming, maraming salamat po.

MGA PARANGAL NA INANI NG GMA SA TAONG 2001

FIRST METROBANK FOUNDATION AWARDS • Outstanding Broadcast Journalist (Jessica Soho) • **PRSP ANVIL AWARDS** • Merit, Electronic and Interactive Media Audio Visual Presentation (GMA Gold "Generations" & GMA Mother's Day Campaign) • Merit, Print Tools (GMA Gold Supplement) • Merit, Special Events (GMA 50th Anniversary Celebration) • **ASIAN TELEVISION AWARDS** • Best News or Current Affairs Special (Saksi sa Kasaysayan) • Best Youth Program (5 & Up) • Runner Up, Best Performance by an Actor-Comedy (Michael V for Bitoy's World) • Highly Commended, Broadcaster of the Year (GMA Network) • Highly Commended, Channel of the Year (GMA Network) • Highly Commended, Best Single Drama or Telesine (GMA Television Special: Umaga, Tanghali, Gabi) • Highly Commended, Best Current Affairs or Magazine Programme Presenter (Winnie Monsod) • Highly Commended, Best Performance by an Actress-Drama (Assunta de Rossi for Larawan) • **THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN THE NATION'S SERVICE FOUNDATION** • TOWNS Awardee for Broadcast Media (Jessica Soho) • **15th PMPC STAR AWARDS FOR TELEVISION** • Best Station (GMA) • Best Children's Show (Five & Up) • Best Children's Show Hosts (Five & Up Kids) • Best News Program (Frontpage Ulat ni Mel Tiangco) • Best Female Newscaster (Mel Tiangco for Frontpage Ulat ni Mel Chiangco) • Best Magazine Show (The Probe Team) • Best Magazine Show Hosts (Cheche Lazaro and Co. of The Probe Team) • Best Morning Show (Unang Hirit) • Best Morning Show Hosts (Arnold Clavio, Lyn Ching, Miriam Quiambao, Suzi Entrata, Rhea Santos, Martin Andanar, Ivan Mayrina, Hans Montenegro and Co.) • Best Public Service Program (Imbestigador) • Best Public Service Program Host (Mike Enriquez of Imbestigador) • Best Public Affairs Program (Debate with Mare at Pare) • Best Public Affairs Program Hosts (Winnie Monsod and Oscar Orbos) • Best Documentary Show (I-Witness) • Best Celebrity Talk Show (Partners Mel & Jay) • Best Celebrity Talk Show Hosts (Mel Tiangco and Jay Sonza of Partners Mel & Jay) • Best Game Show (Digital LG Quiz) • Best Game Show Hosts (Paolo Bediones and Regine Tolentino of Digital LG Quiz) • Best Gag Show (Bubble Gang) • Best Variety Show (S.O.P.) • Best Comedy Show (Idol Ko Si Kap) • Best Comedy Actress (Ai-Ai Delas Alas of 1 for 3) • Best Comedy Actor (Ramon "Bong" Revilla of Idol Ko Si Kap) • Best Docu-Drama Program (Kasangga) • Best Drama Mini-Series (Pira-Pirasong Pangarap) • Best Variety Show (Eat Bulaga) • Best Male TV Host (Joey de Leon) • Best Single Performance By An Actress (Mona Lisa of GMA Telesine:Pariwara and Princess Ann Schuck of Pira-Pirasong Pangarap) • Best Movie for Television ("Umaga, Tanghali, Gabi", GMA Telesine) • **TEN OUTSTANDING YOUNG MEN** • **TOYM Awardee for Public Service in Broadcast Media (Roberto Barreiro)** • **CATHOLIC MASS MEDIA AWARDS** • Best Radio News Program (Super Balita sa Umaga-Saksi sa Dobol B) • Best Radio Special (Event Coverage - "Ang Paglusob sa Malacañang") • Special Citation for Best News Commentary (Ador Mawanay a.k.a. "Ador" exposé on Dobol A sa Dobol B (Arnold Clavio) • Best TV News Magazine (I-Witness, Jessica Soho) • Best TV News Program (Saksi) • Best TV Counselling & Public Service Program (Imbestigador) • **14TH ANNUAL ALIW AWARDS** • Best Female Performer in music lounges, bars, clubs & restaurants (Lani Misalucha) • Best Male Performer in music lounges, bars, clubs & restaurants (Ogie Alcasid) • Best in Major Concert-Female (Regine Velasquez) • Best Emcee (Paolo Bediones) • Best New Artist (Karylle) • **2001 MTV PHILIPPINE VIDEO MUSIC AWARDS** • Best Song (Kahit Na by Ogie Alcasid) • Best Male Performer (Ogie Alcasid) • **14TH AWIT AWARDS** • Best Performance by a Female Recording Artist (Regine Velasquez, "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw") • Song of the Year ("Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" composed by Ogie Alcasid) • Best Performance by a Duet (Regine Velasquez and Jaya, "Habang May Buhay") • **4TH PHILIPPINE WEB AWARDS** • Best Media Site (www.igma.tv) • **People's Choice for News & Zines (www.INQ7.net)** • **24TH ANNUAL GAWAD URIAN AWARDS** • Best Actor (Eddie Garcia-Deathrow, GMA Films) • Best Sound (Albert Michael Idioma-Deathrow, GMA Films) • Best Editing (Jess Navarro-Deathrow, GMA Films) • **FILM ACADEMY OF THE PHILIPPINES** • Best Actor (Eddie Garcia-Deathrow, GMA Films) • Best Supporting Actor (Pen Medina-Deathrow, GMA Films) • Best Production Design (Joey Luna-Deathrow, GMA Films) • Best Film Editing (Jess Navarro-Deathrow, GMA Films) • **49TH ANNUAL FAMAS AWARDS** • Best Sound (Albert Michael Idioma & Rudy Gonzales-Deathrow, GMA Films) • German Moreno Youth Achievement Award (Angelika dela Cruz & Cogie Domingo) • **BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL** • Best Committed Film Championing a Cause (Deathrow, GMA Films) • **11TH GOLDEN DOVE AWARDS** • Best News Program (Saksi) • Best Public Affairs Program (I-Witness) • Best Comedy Program (Bubble Gang) • Best TV Special (Biyaheng Pasig-Payatas) • Best Radio Special (May 1: Ang Paglusob sa Malacañang, DZBB) • Best Program Promoting Culture and the Arts (Cheche Lazaro Presents) • **Best TV Newscaster (Mel Tiangco)** • **Best Public Affairs Host (Vicky Morales, I-Witness)** • **Best Talk Show Host-Radio (Manang Rose Clores, Super Kalusugan, DZBB)** • **Best Musical Variety Show Host-Radio (German Moreno, DZBB)**



AYALA CINEMAS
NOW SHOWING

YOUR 24-HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS 729 - 7777
reserve seats through www.sureseats.com

GLORIETTA 1	GLORIETTA 4	GREENBELT	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 SUMMER CATCH	1 MONSTERS, INC.	5 MVP: MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE	1 SUMMER CATCH
2 EARTHQUAKE	2 THE SCORE	6 HARRY POTTER	2 MVP: MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE
3 WOLF GIRL	3 SUMMER CATCH	7 ROCKSTAR	3 THE SCORE
4 THE MUSKETEER	4 BEST OF CINEMANIA 2001	8 ROCKSTAR	4 MONSTERS, INC.
		9 ROCKSTAR	5 HARRY POTTER

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOL)	MONSTERS, INC.
2 (DOL)	MUSKETEER
3 (DOL)	HARRY POTTER
4 (DOL)	ROCKSTAR
5 (DOL)	THE SCORE
6 (DOL)	SUMMER CATCH
7 (DOL)	CAPT. CORRELL'S
8 (DOL)	SERENDIPITY
9 (DOL)	EARTHQUAKE
10 (DOL)	WOLF GIRL

GOTESCO CINEMA
City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOL)	RESERVE
2 (DOL)	RESERVE
3 (DOL)	RESERVE
4 (DOL)	RESERVE
5 (DOL)	RESERVE
6 (DOL)	RESERVE
7 (DOL)	RESERVE
8 (DOL)	RESERVE
9 (DOL)	RESERVE
10 (DOL)	RESERVE

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOL)	RESERVE
2 (DOL)	RESERVE
3 (DOL)	RESERVE
4 (DOL)	RESERVE
5 (DOL)	RESERVE
6 (DOL)	RESERVE
7 (DOL)	RESERVE
8 (DOL)	RESERVE
9 (DOL)	RESERVE
10 (DOL)	RESERVE

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 (DOL)	MVP
2 (DOL)	DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
3 (DOL)	SUMMER CATCH
4 (DOL)	SUMMER CATCH

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7363

1 (DOL)	MVP
2 (DOL)	GLITTER
3 (DOL)	HARRY POTTER
4 (DOL)	SUMMER CATCH

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Bifan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 (DOL)	EARTHQUAKE
2 (DOL)	MVP
3 (DOL)	HARRY POTTER
4 (DOL)	SUMMER CATCH

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1 (DOL)	IRON LADIES
2 (DOL)	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
3 (DOL)	SOON TO OPEN
4 (DOL)	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 511.8883

1 (DOL)	TIKIM
2 (DOL)	ROCKSTAR
3 (DOL)	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
4 (DOL)	HARRY POTTER

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (DOL)	MAGENTA
2 (DOL)	NAIBANG HAYOP
3 (DOL)	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
4 (DOL)	BOLD AFFAIR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOL)	MVP
2 (DOL)	SUMMER CATCH
3 (DOL)	DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
4 (DOL)	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Bifan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 (DOL)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DOL)	DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
3 (DOL)	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT

Olivarez Los Baños
(tel (049) 249.2558)

1 (DOL)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DOL)	DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
3 (DOL)	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT

Olivarez Tagaytay
(tel (046) 413.0911)

1 (DOL)	TALONG
2 (DOL)	ROSARIO 13
3 (DOL)	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT

Morales Cinema
(Bifan) tel (049) 511.9736

1 (DOL)	EARTHQUAKE
2 (DOL)	MVP
3 (DOL)	SUMMER CATCH

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DOL)	DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
2 (DOL)	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1457

1 (DOL)	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
2 (DOL)	DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
3 (DOL)	MVP

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 (DOL)	DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
2 (DOL)	CAPT. CORRELL'S
3 (DOL)	SUMMER CATCH
4 (DOL)	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 897.5001 to 03

1 (DOL)	MUSKETEER
2 (DOL)	THE SCORE
3 (DOL)	JOY RIDE
4 (DOL)	GLADIATOR

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOL)	
2 (DOL)	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1 (DOL)	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
2 (DOL)	NAIBANG HAYOP

CitiMall
(Paranaque) tel 820.7269

1 (DOL)	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
2 (DOL)	NAIBANG HAYOP
3 (DOL)	ALIPIN NG TUKSO

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 (DOL)	KAPITAN AMBO
2 (DOL)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1 (DOL)	RESERVE
2 (DOL)	RESERVE
3 (DOL)	RESERVE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasig City) tel 851.7864

1 (DOL)	NAIBANG HAYOP
2 (DOL)	ALIPIN NG TUKSO

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 (DOL)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2 (DOL)	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
3 (DOL)	NAIBANG HAYOP
4 (DOL)	BOLD AFFAIR

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DTS SDDS

CLUB 5
NOW OPEN
TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

CMG INTERNATIONAL
1111 Lungsang Compound, Alabang City, Manila 1500
Tel. No. 751-8314 to 18
Fax No. 751-8314 to 18
E-mail: cmg@cmg.com.ph
For VHS, DVD, Silver Mastercard, call: 751-2152 to 55
For Super VHS, call: 751-8010 to 13

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
State-Of-The-Art-Cinema
NOW SHOWING

www.robinsonsmovie.com

GALLERIA 633-9118-19 / 633-7841 loc. 279

1	HARRY POTTER
2	MONSTER, INC.
3	THE SCORE
4	WOLF GIRL
5	SUMMER CATCH
6	EARTHQUAKE
7	MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE
8	MUSKETEER
9	CHOCOLAT
10	RUSH HOUR 2

ERMITA 530-7009 TO 12

1	SUMMER CATCH
2	WOLF GIRL
3	THE SCORE
4	MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE
5	EARTHQUAKE
6	HARRY POTTER
7	MUSKETEER

NOVALICHES 029-9229 TO 31

1	MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE
2	SUMMER CATCH
3	WOLF GIRL
4	WOLF GIRL
5	EARTHQUAKE
6	MUSKETEER
7	HARRY POTTER
8	MONSTERS, INC.

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 / 0454

1	HARRY POTTER
2	MUSKETEER
3	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
4	JOY RIDE
5	DON'T SAY A WORD
6	CAPT. CORRELL'S

METRO EAST 632-9118-19 / 633-7041

1	MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE
2	HARRY POTTER
3	THE SCORE
4	MONSTERS, INC.
5	MUSKETEER
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7	SUMMER CATCH
8	RUSH HOUR 2

IMUS (040) 1471-8100

1	HARRY POTTER
2	EARTHQUAKE
3	SUMMER CATCH
4	MUSKETEER
5	PISNGI
6	WOLF GIRL

ILOILO (033) 330-0077 / 0079

1	HARRY POTTER
2	ROCKSTAR
3	TIKIM
4	IRON LADIES
5	HARRY POTTER
6	ROCKSTAR

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SUTLA (RE-ISSUE)
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DOL)	MUSKETEER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (DOL)	HARRY POTTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DOL)	EARTHQUAKE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOL)	MVP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOL)	SUMMER CATCH
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOL)	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOL)	PISNGI
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MARITAL RAPE / EROTIC DIARIES
ODEON	EARTHQUAKE
ODEON-2	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
ROBEN	PISNGI
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	PUKYUTAN / STORY OF US

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	PUKYUTAN
REMAR	PISNGI
REMAR-2	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	NAIBANG HAYOP
B	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-2	THE MUSKETEER

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ROCKSTAR
CINEMA-2	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
CINEMA-3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE SCORE
CINEMA-5 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MONSTER, INC.
CINEMA-6	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
CINEMA-7	SUTLA (RI)
CINEMA-8	PISNGI
CINEMA-9 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SUMMER CATCH
CINEMA-11 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EARTHQUAKE
CINEMA-12	MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE
CINEMA-14	MUSKETEER
CINEMA-15	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	THE MUSKETEER
CINEMA-2	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-4	SUMMER CATCH
CINEMA-5	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-6	THE SCORE

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

CITY BACOR
417388

1	MUSKETEER
2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
3	HARRY POTTER
4	EARTHQUAKE
5	WOLF GIRL
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7	BOLD AFFAIR
8	FIRE BALL JACK

CITY NORTH EDSA
929452

1	WOLF GIRL
2	MUSKETEER
3	ROCK STAR
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5	EARTHQUAKE
6	THE SCORE
7	SUMMER CATCH
8	HARRY POTTER
9	DREAM GIRL
10	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
11	MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE
12	MONSTERS, INC.

CENTERPOINT
714922-7161416

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	ROCKSTAR
3	HARRY POTTER
4	EARTHQUAKE
5	MUSKETEER
6	WOLF GIRL
7	SUMMER CATCH
8	PEARL HARBOR
9	THE SCORE
10	ALIPIN NG TUKSO

CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE
2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
3	CLOSED
4	HARRY POTTER
5	MUSKETEER
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7	SUMMER CATCH
8	THE SCORE
9	EARTHQUAKE
10	CLOSED
11	PEARL HARBOR
12	WOLF GIRL

CITY MANILA
5239240

1	MONSTERS, INC.
2	THE SCORE
3	SERENDIPITY
4	SUMMER CATCH
5	ROCKSTAR
6	HARRY POTTER
7	DREAM GIRL
8	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
9	MUSKETEER
10	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
11	EARTHQUAKE
12	WOLF GIRL

CEBU
2313876

1	ROCK STAR
2	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
3	HARRY POTTER
4	DREAM GIRL
5	GLITTER
6	IRON LADIES
7	JEEPERS CREEPERS

ILOILO
3209422

1	TIKIM
2	CLOSED
3	ROCKSTAR
4	BUBBLE BOY
5	IRON LADIES
6	DREAM GIRL
7	CLOSED
8	HARRY POTTER

MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	CHOCOLAT
2	MONSTERS, INC.
3	HARRY POTTER
4	FINAL DESTINATION
5	THE SCORE
6	SUMMER CATCH
7	BOLD AFFAIR
8	MUSKETEER
9	WOLF GIRL
10	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
11	MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE
12	ALIPIN NG TUKSO

PAMPANGA
7128015

1	HARRY POTTER
2	THE SCORE
3	SERENDIPITY
4	KING OF GLADIATOR
5	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

SUCAT
8294075

1	SUMMER CATCH
2	SERENDIPITY
3	HARRY POTTER
4	PEARL HARBOR

DAVAO

1	THE SCORE
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	HARRY POTTER
4	GLITTER
5	ROCK STAR
6	JEEPERS CREEPERS

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

The best gift

IF YOU'RE not yet done with your Christmas shopping, then I don't envy your task one bit.

Sometimes the hardest thing is trying to find something worthy of the most special persons in your life. Here are a few suggestions.

Ever since I saw Reese Witherspoon wearing the matching "Tiffany" sterling silver necklace and bracelet with the dangling heart in my favorite film of 2001, "Legally Blonde," I'd been debating every payday whether to buy the set for myself or not. Well, I figured Christmas is the best time to treat myself to something impractical, yet irresistibly cute.

Luckily I managed to acquire the last remaining bracelet in

still slightly damp, spraying the oil all over the body helps to moisturize the skin and gives it an attractive glow. The scent is good enough to not require a spritzing of your usual cologne or perfume.

These are all mate
THE BEST/ A22

KRIS AND TELL



Kris Aquino

stock in Rustan's Makati. Still, a couple of the necklaces remained after I purchased my set.

If there's a special girl in your life, no matter how old she is, and you're still unsure of what to give her, this necklace will surely win her approval.

In case there's a favorite niece, nephew, godchild, or just a best friend who's still very young at heart, you can't go wrong with the new Gameboy Advance. I saw my nephews playing with it, but it wasn't until I borrowed my cameramen's Gameboy Advance during one of my marathon taping sessions that I realized how entralling the combination of the sophisticated graphics and upbeat music was.

Playing with the device is so addicting that you won't notice a lot of time passing by. Gameboy Advance units come in many eye-catching colors, but my favorite is the clear casing.

I know that there's a superstition that you're not supposed to give shoes, but sneakers and running shoes have never been as comfortable or as fashionable as they are now. Of course you can counteract the superstition with another: Ask for a coin from the recipient of the shoes as "payment."

Currently, I'm obsessed with my Nike Air Kukinis in the grey, clear plastic and mirrored silver combination, as well as my red, white and blue stars Honolulu 2001 Kukinis. These running shoes are similar to the popular Prestos in that they are slip-ons without any shoe laces, but they do come in specific shoe sizes and not the Prestos' XXS to XXL.

The Kukinis hug the foot without being suffocating, and the sole is totally non-skid. Luckily, I fit into a 7 1/2 in men's sizes since the men's line always has more color combinations to choose from.

If the person you want to give a gift to is obsessed with showering or bathing, then give him or her Bliss Large Lemon soap coupled and a Lemon Sage Soft oil spray, both from Wish in Shangri-La Makati. The soap really makes the skin feel so fresh and clean in the shower because it lathers so richly. You also get excellent value for money because the soap doesn't melt away fast. It stays solid seemingly forever. Before towel-drying off, when the skin is

POWER PLANT CINEMA		
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41		
THE MUSKETEER - P 13 11:50, 2:00, 4:10, 6:30	MONSTERS, INC. - GP 12:15, 2:20, 4:25, 6:30	HARRY POTTER - GP 11:40, 2:50, 6:00
SUMMER CATCH - P 13 12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 6:30	RUSH HOUR 2 - P 13 12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 6:30	THE SCORE - R 18 1:20, 3:55, 6:30

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

OPENS TOMORROW ! OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2001

MTRCB
RATING

G

General
Patronage

ALL AGES ADMITTED

- Treat yourselves with Yamashita items. Available at selected SM Mall theatre lobby from December 16 to Jan. 7, 2002.
- Free golden Buddha sticker & Yamashita 2002 calendar to early patrons on opening day.

THE TIGER'S TREASURE
YAMASHITA
MAD PRODUCTIONS AND GOLDEN GATE INC.
DANILO BARRIOS CAMILLE PRATS ARMANDO GOYENA RUSTOM PADILLA AND ALBERT MARTINEZ
CARLO MUÑOZ VIC DIAZ TEISUYA MATSUI
A FILM BY CHITO S. ROÑO

Salutes
The 27th Metro Manila Film Festival 2001

Official Entries
Bagong Buwan • Bahay ni Lola
Susmaryosep 4 Fathers • Hubog
Di Kita Ma-Reach • Tatarin • Yamashita

December 25, 2001 - January 03, 2002
Screening starts at 10 am

Simultaneous showing at
SM Cinema Bacoor, Pampanga, Cebu,
Iloilo and Davao.

Pre-sold SM Moviecards Available
at all SM Cinema Ticket Booths!

For Screening Schedules, Call
SM-Dial-A-Movie at 6339999

SM CINEMA

North Edsa • Megamall • Centerpoint • Manila • Southmall • Fairview • Tutuban • Guadalupe • Sucat

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2001

A 23

OPENS TOMORROW !

OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2001

MTRCB
RATING

R-18

Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted

Assunta at her biggest, boldest best!

jay manalo wendell ramos
alessandra de rossi
assunta de rossi
HUBOG
DIRECTED BY
JOEL C. LAMANGAN, DGPI
A GOOD HARVEST PRODUCTIONS

OPENS TOMORROW !

OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2001

MTRCB
RATING

G

General
Patronage

ALL AGES ADMITTED

SHAKE,
RATTLE
AND SCREAM
THIS CHRISTMAS!
**BAHAY
NI LOLA**
A FILM BY URO Q. DELA CRUZ
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT INC.
KINTEX zed

Grab a SMART cellphone, reload and call abroad for the most exciting Christmas raffle ever!

OVER
P5,000,000

WORTH OF PRIZES TO BE GIVEN AWAY

JOIN THE

SMART

AMAZING CHRISTMAS TREAT

GRAND PRIZE

P2,000,000

IN CASH
TAX-FREE

15 WINNERS, 3 FABULOUS SHOWCASES TO CHOOSE FROM!

HONGKONG

BANGKOK

**HONGKONG OR
BANGKOK
FAMILY TRAVEL SHOWCASE**

4 days 3 nights trip for 3, plus \$2,000 pocket money.
Or Cash!



**HOME THEATER
SHOWCASE**

Sony Wega 48" (121.92cm) Projection TV
Pioneer HTD1 Home Theater System
Or Cash!



DIGITAL DREAM SHOWCASE

DCR-TRV30 Sony Video Camera • Sony Digital Still Camera
Compaq iPAQ • Sony PlayStation II and Nokia 9210
Or Cash!

SMART
Simply Amazing!

Promo Mechanics for SMART Buddy Subscribers:

- All active SMART Buddy (pre-paid) subscribers in good standing are eligible to participate.
- To join SMART Buddy subscribers must register via text. To register, key in CHRISTMAS <name> <address> <region> and send to 211.
Region codes: Luzon-LZ, Visayas-VS, Mindanao-MN, Metro Manila-MM.
Subscribers will be charged P2.50 per message sent.
- The cellular phone number of SMART Buddy subscribers will serve as their raffle entry. There can only be one registered name per cellular phone number. Once a subscriber joins, no one else will be allowed to register using the same cellular phone number unless he quits the promo. In the event that the winning cellular phone number was registered under two users within the same month of the promo duration, the current registered name will be recognized. However, one person can register several cellular phone numbers at one time.
- All registered participants can earn raffle entries in three easy ways:

•Via Smart Buddy Reloads

•Every reload entitles the subscriber to earn raffle entries. The number of raffle entries earned is determined by the cumulative value of reloads at the end of each month as illustrated below:

CUMULATIVE RELOAD VALUE ¹ PER SUBSCRIBER (PER MONTH)	RAFFLE ENTRY(IES)
P300	1
P500	5
P800	12
P1,000	20
every P300 beyond the 1st P1,000	5

¹Notes: Pre-paid reloading via Call & Text Card, SMART Money and SMART Mobile Banking is entitled to raffle entries. Raffle entries earned through reloads will be credited after the end of each month (e.g. all entries earned for November will be reflected in a subscriber's raffle entry balance by December 1 only).

•Via Activation

•Each new SMART Buddy SIM card activation during the promo period entitles the subscriber to one (1) entry. The raffle entry earned will be credited at the end of the month.

•All activations for the duration of the promo period will be awarded raffle entries for as long as the subscriber has duly registered for the promo.

•Via SMART IDD

•Every IDD call that reaches a minimum of three (3) minutes in duration is entitled to 3 entries.

5. To view the number of raffle entries earned, key in CHRISTMAS and send to 211.
Rate per CHRISTMAS RAFFLE INQUIRY is P2.50.

6. All entries earned for a particular month will be included in the monthly draw for the same period only. However, all entries not drawn are still qualified for the grand draw on January 11, 2002.

7. The participant can also opt to quit from the promo. To quit, key in CHRISTMAS QUIT and send to 211. To register the number under a different name, the participant should repeat the registration steps. All valid entries made prior to quitting will still be included in the monthly and grand draw under the registered name.
Rate for CHRISTMAS QUIT is P2.50.

Promo Mechanics for SMART GOLD Subscribers:

- Eligible individual or corporate SMART Gold (post-paid) subscribers can participate in the 2nd preliminary draw and grand draw following their billing cycles.
- SMART Gold individual, corporate and government subscribers need not register, as they will be automatically included in the promo.
- If a subscription is under a corporate or government account, in case it is drawn, the prize will be given to the corporate or government account.
- The cellular phone number will serve as the raffle entry.
- All registered participants can earn raffle entries in three easy ways:

•Via Monthly Service Fee

•A SMART Gold subscriber exceeding a prescribed minimum monthly billing requirement earns him/her raffle entries.
•For every P250 in excess of the minimum billing requirement of each plan, a Gold subscriber earns additional 5 raffle entries.

GOLD PLAN (current)	GOLD PLAN (old)	MINIMUM MONTHLY BILLING	RAFFLE ENTRY
300 (Corporate)	40	P1,000	20
600	80	P1,500	30
1,200	120 & 160	P2,500	50
1,800	200 & 500	P3,500	60
3,000	750	P4,500	90
4,000	1,000	P6,000	120

•For example, a Gold subscriber under Plan 600 has a billing of P2,500. He/she will earn a total of 50 raffle entries.

Plan	Minimum Monthly Billing Req.	Raffle Entry
Plan 600	P1,500	30+20 = 50 raffle entries

Excess of P1,000 / 250 x 5 = 20

•Via Activation

•Each SMART Gold activation entitles the subscriber to one (1) entry.

•Via SMART IDD

•Every IDD call that reaches a minimum of three (3) minutes in duration is entitled to 3 raffle entries.

6. To view the number of raffle entries that you have earned, key in CHRISTMAS and send to 211. For SMART Gold, balances will be updated at the end of the billing cycle.
Rate per CHRISTMAS RAFFLE INQUIRY is P2.50.

GENERAL Promo Mechanics for SMART Buddy and SMART Gold Subscribers:

1. The draw dates and prizes are as follows:

DRAW DATES	PERIOD COVERED	PRIZES
Dec. 5, 2001 (For SMART Buddy Only)	Nov. 1 - 30, 2001 (For SMART Buddy Only)	• Five (5) winners who can choose from three (3) showcases • Winners will be distributed geographically as follows: 1 winner each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and 2 winners from Metro Manila
Jan. 10, 2002 (For SMART Buddy and SMART Gold)	Dec. 1-31, 2001 (For SMART Buddy and SMART Gold)	• Ten (10) winners who can choose from three (3) showcases • Winners will be distributed geographically as follows: 2 winners each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and 4 winners from Metro Manila
GRAND DRAW: Jan. 11, 2002	Nov. 1, 2001 - December 31, 2001	• One (1) GRAND PRIZE WINNER OF P2,000,000 IN CASH - TAX-FREE

- Showcase 1: Travel/Shopping for 5 persons in Bangkok or Hong Kong plus US\$2,000 pocket money. This package includes 4 days and 3 nights accommodation plus round-trip airfare.
- Showcase 2: Digital Dream Showcase (Nokia 9210, DCR-TRV30 Sony Video Camera, Sony Digital Still Camera, Compaq iPAQ and Sony Play Station II)
- Showcase 3: Home Theater Showcase Sony Wega 48" (121.92cm) Projection TV and Pioneer HTD1 Home Theater System which includes 5-disc DVD/CD changer, satellite speakers, center speaker and an active subwoofer

- All the prizes are TAX-FREE. If a showcase winner wants to convert his/her prize to cash, they will be given P175,000.00.
- A winner may only win once every raffle draw.
- The promo is from November 21 to December 31, 2001. All activations, reloads and IDD calls made since Nov. 1, 2001 are included in the promo.
- Winners shall be notified thru the following means:
a. Text Message.
b. Registered Mail.
- Winners within Metro Manila may claim their prizes at the SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Provincial winners can claim their prizes at the nearest SMART office indicated in the register mail.
- Winners must present their active SMART GSM cellphone and SIM card, valid I.D. with photo and registered mail when claiming their prizes.
- All employees of SMART Communications, Inc., Philippine Telephone Corporation, and their advertising agencies and relatives up to the 2nd degree of affinity or consanguinity are automatically disqualified from the promo.
- The raffle will be held at the 27th SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Draws will be held at 12NN on December 5, January 10 and January 11.
- Prizes should be claimed within 60 days from notification of winners.
- Actual prizes may vary from the ones shown.

SMART GOLD
GSM

Buddy
Pre-paid

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1939, Series of 2001.

acer
we hear you

Acer Website www.acer.com.ph
Acer Hotline 302 7777/302-7888

MONDAY,
DECEMBER 24, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B1

BUSINESS

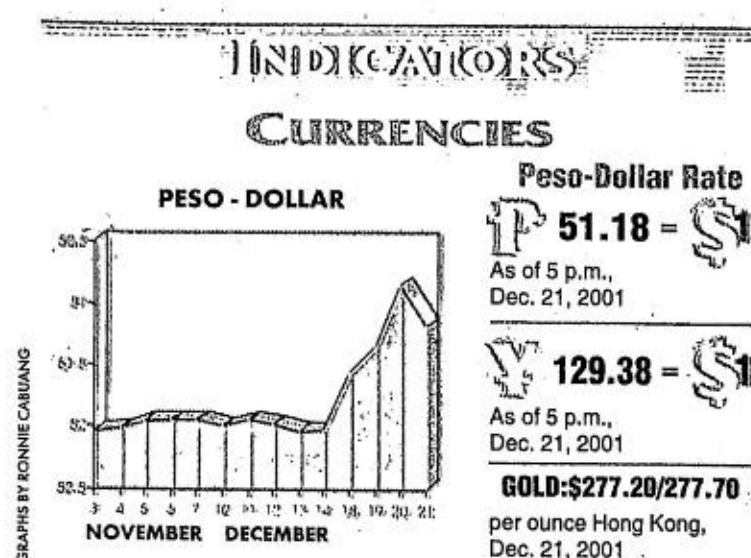
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

COMPAQ
Thin Clients

For more info,
contact us today!

INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.
Tel. 727-3801 Website: www.ics.com.ph

IMF sees lower RP growth for 2002



BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund has revised its outlook for the Philippine economy and had become a bit bearish about next year's prospects despite assurances by the Macapagal administration that the worst was over and that growth would be better in 2002.

The Fund's revision of its World Economic Outlook led to a lower forecast for the country's growth in gross domestic product, the barometer of economic performance, to only 3.2 percent against an earlier projection of 3.5 percent.

While GDP growth this year was

revised upward to 2.9 percent from an earlier forecast of 2.5 percent, all the Fund's numbers were much lower than the official estimates of the Macapagal administration, which had assured that a 3.3-percent GDP growth this year was in the bag.

In 2002, the government expects the economy to grow by at least 4 percent to as much as 4.5 percent.

Except for a few foreign financial groups, most believed that the Philippine economy could only hit a GDP growth ranging from 2.7 to 3.5 percent. Deutsche Bank, however, was more bullish than the government as it sees a GDP growth of

4 to 5 percent for the country.

In the first three quarters, Philippine GDP growth had averaged 3.1 percent and the government assured that a 3.7-percent growth in the fourth quarter would be achieved to reach this year's target.

A strong farm output pushed the country's growth forward despite falling export receipts.

On the basis of better-than-expected numbers from the first to the third quarter, the IMF had adjusted its growth forecast this year to a number still below 3.3 percent, the lower end of the government's target range.

The IMF's decision to revise its

world outlook came after the Sept. 11 attacks on the power centers of the United States that were seen to have a huge adverse impact on global economies, particularly those in the Asian region, until early next year.

The slow recovery of the technology sector is a source of concern for the IMF in relation to the pace by which exports from Asia, a huge supplier of technology and electronic products, would rebound.

"The key uncertainty in the outlook for much of Asia is the strength of export demand, specially the pace of recovery in technology sectors," the IMF said in its world outlook.

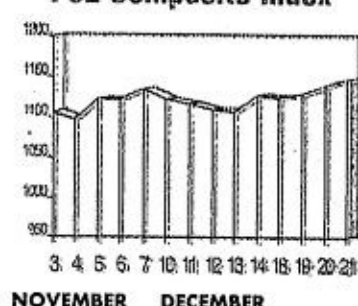
STOCK MARKET

Stocks to rise

THE SEASONAL Christmas rally is expected to provide an upward bias during the last trading week of the year, but volumes are likely to be thin when the market reopens this Wednesday ahead of another long weekend into the New Year holidays.

Analysts said that after gaining another 1.8 percent last week to close at 1,145.97 on Friday, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index is likely to end the year on a positive note in anticipation of a better year ahead. (See story on Page B6.)

PSE Composite Index



THE RENEWAL of National Power Corp.'s controversial insurance policy was finally settled as the Malacañang-appointed joint bidding committee tasked to handle it chose the Heath Lambert Group.

Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said in a statement that the new policy would cover a year starting Dec. 21.

"In its meeting last Thursday, the committee unanimously approved the selection of Heath Lambert," Perez said.

The broker would shoulder 95 percent of Napocor's insurance requirements covering \$6.5 billion

worth of assets.

The Government Service Insurance System, which is mandated by law to manage the insurance policies of state-owned corporations, would handle the remaining 5 percent.

Last week, Perez had said the committee was considering to appoint two brokers who were prequalified in two failed biddings for the policy's renewal.

But only Heath Lambert was chosen since it was able to cover all of the 95-percent placement, Perez explained.

He added that the coverage for Napocor's other insurance needs

would be selected early next year.

These would cover insurance for the power firm's submarine cables, submarine hull and against sabotage and terrorism.

In an earlier interview, Finance Undersecretary Antonio Bernardo had said the committee would seek alternative schemes to cover Napocor's insurance needs considering two failed biddings.

But Bernardo, who acted as committee chair in the absence of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, said that if the committee decided to negotiate, "things would be a lot easier and the process would

be very fast."

"The law provides that government contracts may be secured through negotiations if biddings for such failed twice," he noted.

He said the second bidding failed as none of the bidders met the mandated technical requirements set for the auction.

He said this meant that the bids could not be compared within the same parameters.

"Probably because of the different insurance conditions worldwide, the firms could only provide coverages for limited and different areas," Bernardo said.

48 HOURS OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS, DECEMBER 24 & 25, 2001
Tune in at Joey 92.3 FM as presented by RADO of Switzerland

RADO
Switzerland

92.3
bythins
METROMANILA

48-HOUR CHRISTMAS Special

Special Christmas Segments:

- Jingle Bell Jive** (Dec. 24 • 9:00-9:30 am / Dec. 25 • 12:30-1:00 pm)
Holiday harmonies from the biggest names in current music such as Jewel, Madonna, N Sync and 98 Degrees.
- Home for the Holidays** (Dec. 24 • 12:00-12:30 pm / Dec. 25 • 9:30-10:00 am)
Move closer to home with the country's finest musicians as they sing your favorite Christmas carols. Featuring the music of Gary Valenciano, Side A, Jaya and more.
- A Soulful Christmas** (Dec. 24 • 3:00-3:30 pm / Dec. 25 • 7:00-7:30 am)
It's Yuletide with a touch of Rhythm and Blues featuring artists like Vanessa Williams, TLC, Johnny Mathis and Peabo Bryson.
- Jazzing up the Holidays** (Dec. 24 • 6:00-6:30 pm / Dec. 25 • 3:30-4:00 pm)
Good ol' fashioned jive liven up the holidays with Christmas favorites by Yutaka, Workshy and Pauline Wilson.
- Holiday Harmonies** (Dec. 24 • 9:00-9:30 pm / Dec. 25 • 6:00-6:30 pm)
Musical tools do the talking for a different kind of celebration featuring great instrumentalists like David Foster, Ken Navarro, Wayman Tysdale and more.
- Paskong Pilipino** (December 25 • 12:00 mn-12:30 am)
Yuletide tradition and local talent mesh for a season worth remembering with Ryan Cayabyab, The Company and more.
- Christmas with the Masters** (December 25 • 2:00-2:30 am / 11:00-11:30 pm)
A classical treat from the world's greatest voices and music ensembles. With Placido Domingo, The Westminster Abbey Choir, Joan Sutherland and more.
- Silver and Gold** (December 25 • 4:30-5:00 am / 8:30-9:00 pm)
Boardroom favorites from the music icons of the 40s and 50s featuring The Glenn Miller Orchestra, Frank Sinatra and more.

Wishing you the Blessings of Christmas & Peace for the coming year!

92.3
bythins
METROMANILA

RADO
Switzerland

We listen to you 24 hours a day

FortuneCare (HMO) TOLL-FREE 24-HOUR CUSTOMER SUPPORT LINE

1-800-10-6333-8888

PCIP AND SAVE

Kriss Kringle 2001

COCKTAILS

By Victor C. Agustin



IT WAS the day before Christmas, and Ador Mawanay somehow managed to hack into various VIP computers and pry out their secret gift lists. These were what Mawanay stumbled into, as told to Loren Legarda-Leviste:

- Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo—Bonsai, from Edgardo Angara
- Edgardo Angara—Crabs, from Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
- Mike Arroyo—Punching bag, from Ninez Cacho-Olivares
- Linda Montayre—Crab mallet, from Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
- Panfilo Lacson—Make-up set, from Chavit Singson
- Chavit Singson—Orange overalls, from Panfilo Lacson
- Pacifico Marcelo—A CD of love songs, from Fleur de Lis
- Jake Macasaet—Orinola, from Joker Arroyo
- Joker Arroyo—Toilet paper, from Jake Macasaet
- SMC PCGG representatives—Super glue, from PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac
- Pantaleon Alvarez—Garrote, from MASO
- Tessie Aquino-Oreta—Lambada CD, from Narda Camacho
- Teodoro Locsin Jr.—Mouthwash, from Arnilda Siguion-Reyna
- Manuel V. Pangilinan—Cooked goose, from Alfonso Yuchengco Jr.

- Helen Yuchengco-Dee—Horsewhip, from Alfonso Yuchengco III
- Alfonso Yuchengco III—Lollipop, from Helen Yuchengco-Dee
- Tom Alcantara—Palo-palo, from Frannie Jacinto
- Reghis Romero—Viagra, from Abu Sayyaf
- Vitaliano Nañagas II—The book, "How to Win Friends and Influence People," from SSS union
- Winston Garcia—Oakwood gift certificate, from GSIS union
- Manuel Agustines—Accounting 101 manual, from SGV
- Wilson Siy and Willie Ocier—Samurai set, from Dante Tan
- Enrique Razon Jr.—Gobbledygook, from financial analysts
- Walter Brown—Good neighbor award, from Opus Dei Greenmeadows chapter
- CA Justices Bienvenido Reyes, Jose Sabio Jr. and Eubulo Verzola—A new pair of eye-

glasses each, from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

- Louie Vera—Monopoly set, from KBP
- Jose Armando Eduque—Stars gift certificate, from Ramon Mojica
- Ernest Escaler—Shampoo and laundry soap, from Coutts Bank Hong Kong
- Emilio Yap—Tikoy, from GSIS collection department
- Andres Narvasa—Wack-Wack playing rights and Baguio Country Club membership, from anonymous clients
- The Company—Bottle of red wine, from Citibank
- Harry Liu—A case of Liberty Condensada, from Raymond Moreno
- Raymond Moreno—Calachuchi flowers, from Toni Serrano-Parsons
- Millie Reyes—Walis-tingting, from Ayala Land
- Albert "Bobby" Aguirre—Fruitcake, from Nanette Aguirre
- Marivic Rufino—Nun's habit, from the Manila Golf Club

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to everyone!

(NOTICE to readers: Cocktails will take a holiday break and will be back after New Year. He may be reached by e-mail though at cocktails_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktails_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Improving economic outlook seen boosting stock prices

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

CHEERFUL tidings from the seasonal Christmas rally are still expected to provide an upward bias during the last trading week of the year, but volumes are likely to be thin when the market reopens this Wednesday ahead of another long weekend into the New Year holidays.

Analysts said that after gaining another 1.8 percent last week to close at 1,145.97 on Friday, the main-share Philippine

MARKET PLAY

Stock Exchange composite index is likely to end the year on a positive note in anticipation of a better year ahead.

BPI Securities analyst Spencer Yap said: "The market is likely to remain sideways (this) week coming off and going into long holiday weekends. There may be a positive bias, however, given that the coming week represents the last opportunity for window dressing for year-end closings."

"We do not expect the market to move strongly in the early part of the New Year as investors are likely to await confirmation of improving economic and corporate performances," he said.

Yap said the strong rally might come as early as the second quarter or

as late as the second half of the coming year.

"There are, however, some early indications of possible movers next year, premised on a recovering economy and a low interest rate regime. These sectors include banking, property, retail and consumer," he said.

BPI technical analyst Roberto Cano said the market's next resistance stood at 1,185 to 1,200.

"We think that the market run is likely to test the next major resistance range from 1,220 to 1,250. The technical indicators are biased for a bullish run," Cano said.

AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan agreed that the market might drift sideways with a positive bias on thin volumes this week on the heels of the extended Christmas vacation.

"Going into next year, the market's psychology will be a lot healthier than it was this year. Some investors are already anticipating a rebound in the global economy by the second half of the year. Once such a view becomes broader, then we could be looking at a strong start for stocks in 2002," Vistan said.

"There will still some old concerns, but the effects are somewhat diminish-

ing. A lot of the negatives, whether those that have already happened or could potentially happen, have been factored into stock prices. Nervousness should ease as the rate of the global economic recession moderates early next year," he said.

Stock market portal 2tradeasia.com said the market would likely follow Wall Street's performance during the three-day shortened trading week as most positive news had been discounted by the market.

Among the positive catalysts last week were the buy-in deal forged by San Miguel Corp. with Japanese brewer Kirin, the turnaround of big banks Philippine National Bank and Equitable PCI Bank and the bullish economic outlook from Macaflang. Even the bomb scare in the Makati central business district on Friday was largely ignored by the market.

"Players might opt to wait for firmer momentum build-up following fund managers' usual year-end window-dressing activities, while others gauge improvements in net foreign buying and selling in selected large-cap stocks," 2tradeasia.com said.

"These mixed elements might create another tight-bound trading session for the first two trading days, although optimism for gradual corporate earnings recovery should rule the week's

trading session. Moreover, the overall tone is being assisted by expectations of additional money that would be floated in the financial system following monetary authorities' hint to bring down further the banking system's required reserves from 18 to 16 percent," it explained.

2tradeasia.com also said fresh funds might trickle back to the stock market now that yields on fixed income instruments were on a downturn. It also noted that there was limited opportunity in foreign exchange trading based on current movements and specially with the expected \$540 million in inflow from the SMC-Kirin deal.

"What would be required at this point is the government's staunch encouragement toward business leaders' investment-related initiatives that should help in employment generation. This would appease concerns on job tenure and encourage credit availability in the process," it said.

"Overall, we are maintaining our positive stance toward consumer, finance and utility sectors, as well as selectivity for telecom issues. Some of our recommended stocks include Bank of the Philippine Islands, Equitable PCI Bank, SM Prime Holdings, SMC B, First Philippine Holdings and Petron Corp.," it said.

BOI sets P50-B investment goal

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE BOARD of Investments has set a modest investment target of P50 billion next year as the agency remained cautious of the country's economic prospect. The 2002 target is a huge drop from the BOI's registered investments that are expected to hit P102 billion by year's end.

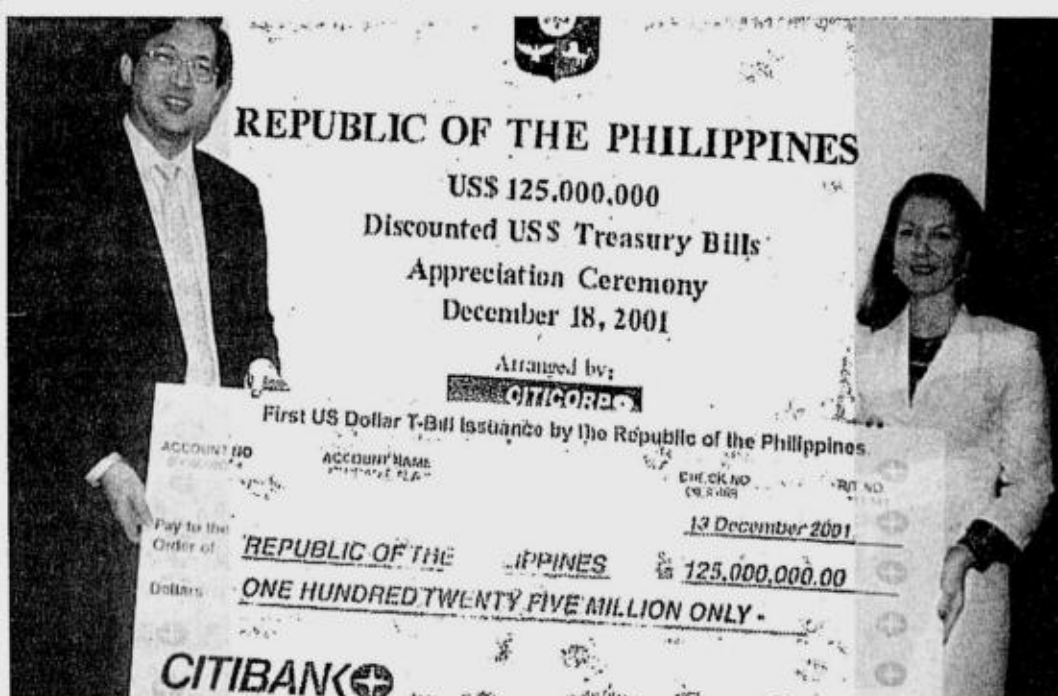
Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the BOI was wary of going into "a numbers chase" by setting very high targets that were not justified by the current economic environment.

BOI managing head Gregorio Domingo said he did not expect the local telecommunication firms to continue spending next year the way they did this year.

Telecommunication companies registered a total of P65 billion worth of investments this year or 64 percent of the total in 2001. Globe Telecom Inc. (P39.728 billion), Smart Communications Inc. (P17.102 billion), and Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (P8.17 billion) have applied for incentives with the BOI for their mobile phone expansion projects to meet fast growing demand.

This was why the BOI has stuck to the same P50-billion target for 2002 which the agency set early this year even though it has surpassed its 2001 goals.

As of November this year, the BOI's investment tally reached P101.63 billion, up 161.6 percent from P38.85 billion during the same period a year ago. Filipinos accounted for the bulk of project registrations as Philippine equity investments soared 444 percent to P45.88 billion.



CITIBANK RAISES \$125-M FOR RP

Citibank, N.A. Global Corporate and Investment Bank recently held an appreciation ceremony to celebrate the closure of the \$125-million treasury bill underwritten and arranged by Citibank through Citicorp Capital Philippines Inc. (CCPI). In simple ceremonies at the Department of Finance, Citibank's country corporate officer Catherine M. Weir (right) presented Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho (left) with a check for \$125 million to symbolize the successful issue. Weir said the issue deepens the investor base for Philippine issues by creating a benchmark for a one-year dollar-denominated Philippine paper.

Another coco price stabilization fund?

IN THE seemingly never-ending story on the coco levy fund, there is now talk of setting up a price stabilization mechanism, this time to prop up the low price of copra. What money will be used? The coco levy fund, of course.

Price stabilization schemes in the past never worked. What makes anybody think it will work this time?

Back in 1973 or thereabouts, the export price of copra went through the roof, probably because of a supply shortage or a sudden increase in demand. As a result, the price of coconut cooking oil also went up. The government could not tolerate the horrifying crisis of the Filipino wife frying fish or sauteing vegetables with expensive cooking oil.

So, cooking oil millers were asked to sell their products at a loss. The loss was made up with, you guess it, the coconut levy fund. We had the spectacle of coconut farmers being fleeced with the levy, then the levy was used to bring down the price of cooking oil. In effect, the levy was taken away from the farmer and turned over to the cooking oil millers.

The millers were happy because they kept their profit levels. The consumer was happy with lower cooking oil prices. The coconut farmers were far from happy. The levy, which was supposed to have been exacted for the benefit of coconut farmers, was used to benefit the oil millers. How much of the levy

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General



was used has never made known.

Remember the Oil Price Stabilization Fund (OPSF)? The gasoline pump price the car owner paid had a buffer, or an overprice. This overprice was remitted by the oil companies to the OPSF. When the world price of oil went up, the pump prices remained unchanged. The loss was made up with the OPSF. In effect, the car owner was paying for higher pump prices before they actually went up. The overprice contributed into the OPSF was advance payment on higher pump price in the future.

The trouble was, when there was need to withdraw from the OPSF to pay the oil companies, the money was no longer there. Congress had used a big chunk of it to fund the agrarian reform program. Before long, the OPSF was bankrupt and the oil companies could not be paid their subsidies.

Now, somebody has come up with the bright idea,

picked up by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo, of using the estimated P700 million in yearly earnings on the coco levy fund to prop up the sagging copra price. Several questions come to mind: Where is the feasibility study of this plan? Since the coco levy fund is tied up in the five oil mills, Cocobank, Cocoflife and San Miguel, how will the P700 million be monetized (a favorite word of the financial geniuses who dreamed up this plan)? Assuming the money can be scraped up, just exactly how will the farmers get their hands on it? Finally, doesn't P700 million a year look puny?

Puny as the amount might be, the immediate effect would be to bring down the export price of coconut oil, bringing the copra price down with it. When the levy was lifted in 1983, the government thought that the farmers would pocket the levy. They did not, because the export price went down exactly by the amount of the levy that had just been lifted. Does anybody think the importers in the States are paties?

Price stabilization schemes never work. It is an artificial mechanism to manipulate the market. It so happens that there are forces in the market much too strong for even the government to manipulate. Government had to better think of other ways of spending the P700 million a year for the benefit of the coconut farmers.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, December 21, 2001)					
STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58	58.5	57.5	58	607,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	24.25	25.5	24.25	25	1,623,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	189	189	185	187	16,280
Philippine National Bank	62	67	62	67	107,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	20	20	20	20	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	16.25	16.5	15.75	16	27,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	15.5	16.25	15.25	16	209,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	10,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	220	240	220	240	110
Manulife Financial Corp.	1310	1315	1310	1315	890
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1070	1070	1050	1060	21,440
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.25	24.25	24	24	4,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	660,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	600	605	600	605	13,300
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	412.5	422.5	412.5	420	68,650
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	26,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23	23.25	23	23	77,100
Manila Electric Co. B	31	31.5	31	31.5	1,135,100
Petron Corp.	1.5	1.52	1.48	1.52	2,933,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2	2.08	2	2.08	3,933,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	0.65	0.75	0.65	0.75	950,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	28,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	3,800
La Tondela Distillers Inc.	23	23.25	23	23.25	14,000
RFM Corp.	2.24	2.4	2.22	2.4	7,815,000
San Miguel Corp. A	42.5	43	42	42.5	1,459,200
San Miguel Corp. B	52.5	53	52	52.5	481,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	40,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdq A	0.71	0.73	0.7	0.7	290,000
Ayala Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.65	3,756,000
Abolitz Equity Ventures	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	180,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.76	0.7	0.76	1,060,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	20,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.64	0.61	0.64	4,500,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	700,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	400,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	1,100,000
Fit-Hispano Holdings Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	7,000
First Phil Hlgs Corp.	26.5	26.5	26	26.5	252,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	200,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000
Ionics Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	113,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.72	0.7	0.71	10,080,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	2,610,000
Musico Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.34	5,850,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	220,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.8	350,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.5	4.7	4.2	4.7	120,000
Wellux Industries Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.33	0.33	40,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	150,000
Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	80,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Federal Chemicals Inc.	7.4	7.4	7	7.1	214,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	161,900
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.47	0.57	0.47	0.53	4,870,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	17	17	17	17	1,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hlgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23	23.75	23	23.5	2,630,700
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.72	1.92	1.72	1.9	927,000
RFM Corp.-Pref.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.005	0.0055	0.0048	0.005	94,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	9	9	9	9	51,000
Far Eastern University	400	400	400	400	140
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.65	7,145,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	1,530,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	280,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	230,000
Flintinvest Land Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.82	801,000
SM Development Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	12,154,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	20,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	90,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.55	0.6	0.55	0.6	70,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	2.7	3	2.7	3	51,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	3,000,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	21,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	5,000,000
Pacificia	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1,000,000
SHARES					
Banks & Fin Svc	2,625.620				113,312,900.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	201,350.590				305,658,210.00
PRO	22,260.000				111,770,250.00
Mining	8,211.000				279,500.00
OIL	28,000.000				173,400.00
GRAND TOTALS:					531,194,260.00
AVERAGES					
Banks & Fin Svc	492.92				UP 6.7%
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,555.29				UP 8.1%
PRO	491.70				DOWN 3.9%
Mining	1,027.21				UNCH 0.0%
OIL	1.97				UNCH 0.0%
All Shares Index	689.23				DOWN 7.0%
Composite	1,145.97				UP 6.1%
NO. OF ADVANCES: 30; NO. OF DECLINES: 22; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 83; NO. OF TRADES: 2,232					

ADB keen on joining plan to set up AMCs

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE ASIAN Development Bank is keen on joining other multilateral institutions in helping local banks set up asset management companies (AMCs) in order to speed up the pace of financial restructuring in the Philippines.

"I think it's timely to talk about AMCs. We are prepared to discuss with the government in what way we can help," ADB country director Gunther Hecker told reporters.

"But because of the moral hazard issue, a private sector-led effort is more welcome," he said, referring to the unnecessary burden if the government would have to shoulder the responsibility of cleaning up banks' balance sheet.

Hecker said that being a new issue in the aftermath of the 1997 Asian financial crisis, ADB has had no experience yet in any AMC creation program even in other emerging markets.

However, he said the ADB would be ready to extend assistance to the country this time through its private sector lending window.

He expressed concern that the continued rise in banks' non-performing loans has constrained banks from giving out new loans, which were what local enterprises needed to spur domestic productivity.

The ratio of NPLs to the banking system's to-

tal loans has reached almost 19 percent as of October this year.

International Finance Corp., the investment arm of the World Bank, earlier offered to help the country set up AMCs. The offer was made during the consultations on the World Bank group's country assistance strategy for the Philippines.

"If additional help is required, we'll be ready to help," Hecker also assured.

Four years after the Asian currency turmoil erupted, investors are still concerned about the pace of financial restructuring, and the Philippines is among the countries where the NPL ratio has continued to worsen.

Unlike other Asian countries such as Indonesia and Thailand whose governments established centralized AMCs to sell assets and clean up their banks' balance sheet, the Philippines did not set up an AMC during the post-currency crisis era. As the government has resisted embarking on a similar route, talks about AMCs are now led mostly by the private sector.

But the ADB itself, as well as international credit rating agency Standard & Poor's, have warned that AMCs were not a quick-fix solution to the problems of the banking sector.

The ADB, for instance, has noted in an earlier regional report the slow pace of asset disposal even by the crisis-hit countries which had put up AMCs.



PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS (PCS) ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. (AHMOPI)



ADDENDUM TO THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN PCS AND AHMOPI

This addendum shall form part of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between AHMOPI, PCS and its affiliated societies for an urgent need to agree on certain issues on the provisions of surgical specialty care to HMO patients that affect them.

The parties to this addendum hereby agree and bind themselves by the following amendment on the terms and conditions:

Section 1. That, the consultation fees for primary care doctors, regardless of specialty, shall be P150.00, and for secondary and tertiary who are Fellows and Diplomates of the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) and/or its affiliated component societies shall be P250.00 in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao, and shall remain at P225.00 in all other areas.

- 1.1 Primary care doctors are those who provide initial care including assessment and medical interventions for HMO patients seeking healthcare services.
- 1.2 In cases that are not within the scope of the primary care doctor's competencies, patients shall be referred to appropriate specialists.
- 1.3 Implementation of the new payment scheme shall be effective on January 1, 2002.
- 1.4 Upgrading of consultation fees in other key areas may be included in the new payment scheme subject to economic evaluation/study of such area.

Section 2. That, all payments of consultation fees under Section 1, shall be over and above Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PHIC) payments.

Section 3. That, all bills presented by the doctors/specialists shall be paid fully within sixty (60) days from receipt of the statement of account with complete documentation.

Section 4. That, the definitions covering the said Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) shall be construed as follows:

- 4.1 Affiliated doctors - doctors within the network of an HMO (HMO who affiliates)
- 4.2 Accredited doctors - doctors who are Fellows/Diplomates of the Philippine College of Surgeons and/or its affiliated component societies.
- 4.3 All HMO patients of AHMOPI affiliated organizations reserve the right to choose Fellows/Diplomates of the PCS and/or its affiliated societies in accordance with the terms specified in their contracts with specific HMOs.

Section 5. That, a core group composed of representatives from PCS and AHMOPI shall be formed to define the details, guidelines/mechanics for the implementation of this Memorandum of Agreement. It shall be called PCS-AHMOPI Liaison Committee.

Section 6. That, to ensure compliance of the Memorandum of Agreement, the PCS will sign a MOA with its affiliated societies, similarly, AHMOPI will sign a MOA with its HMO members.

Section 7. That, this Memorandum of Agreement shall take effect on July 1, 2001 and expires on June 30, 2002. The PCS-AHMOPI Liaison Committee must convene two (2) months before the expiration of this MOA to review its contents.

Section 8. This addendum shall be deemed to amend and/or supersede any provisions of the MOA that is not consistent with the provisions hereof; all other provisions of the MOA shall continue to be in full force and effect in accordance with the terms and conditions of the MOA.

(Sgd.) Alberto B. Roxas, M.D.
President

PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS (PCS)

(Sgd.) Rosalio A. Tandlana
President

ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. (AHMOPI)

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:

(Sgd.) Generoso T. Abes, M.D.
Regent-In-Charge/Chairman
Committee on HMO & RUV

(Sgd.) Rafael P. Bantayan, Jr., M.D.
Vice Chairman of AHMOPI
Chairman, Medical Services Committee

ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE PHILS., INC. (AHMOPI) HMO Members:

1. Aetna HealthCare, Inc.
2. Ayala HealthCare, Inc.
3. Blue Cross HealthCare, Inc.
4. CAP Health Maintenance Org., Inc.
5. Caritas Health Shield, Inc.
6. Cuzolife Health Care
7. Fortune Medicare, Inc.
8. Health Maintenance, Inc.
9. Insular Life Health Care, Inc.
10. Maxicare PCIB Cigna Healthcare
11. Medicaid Philippines
12. Metrocare Health Systems, Inc.
13. Optimum HealthCare Systems, Inc.
14. PhilamCare Health Systems, Inc.
15. Pryce Care, Inc.
16. St. Patrick's Health Care Systems, Inc.
17. Star Healthcare Systems, Inc.
18. Valu Care Health Systems, Inc.

PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS (PCS)
Affiliate Surgical Specialty Societies:

1. Philippine Society of General Surgeons
2. Philippine Orthopaedic Association
3. Philippine Urological Association
4. Philippine Society of Pediatric Surgeons
5. Academy of Filipino Neurosurgeons
6. Philippine Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons
7. Philippine Association of Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgeons, Inc.
8. Philippine Society of Otolaryngology
9. Philippine Association of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeons
10. Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology

PCS-AHMOPI Liaison Committee:

PCS:
Generoso T. Abes, MD
Arsenio L. Pascual, III, MD
Minguita B. Padilla, MD
Ramon B. Estrada, MD

AHMOPI:
Rafael P. Bantayan, Jr., MD
Erinda L. Tiuseco, MD
Ricardo L. Jocson, MD
Eric S. Nubla, MD
Nicanor S. Montoya, Jr., MD

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER *My Wish Box* **WAVE 89.1**
SOFT HADWITTES ALL THE TIME

DO YOU WANT TO WIN THESE 3 VHS TAPES FROM C-INTERACTIVE?

It's so easy. All you have to do is fill up this coupon and fax it to WAVE 89.1 at 632-WAVE.

All entries for the day will be drawn and winners will be notified via fax or text within the day.



Today's prize courtesy of:



NAME: _____ AGE: _____
ADDRESS: _____
FAX: _____ PHONE: _____
CELL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Time In to Wave 89.1 for the Announcement of the Day's Winner

HINT: Check out Lifestyle's Fitness section on Tuesday, December 25, for Inquirer's My Wish Box.



Happy Holidays!



When buying HP printing supplies, check them twice. Make sure they're original.



INFOTECH

LEO MAGNO, Editor

XBOX XPLORED ON XMAS

The last Xbox

BY LEO MAGNO

IT'S Christmastime. But I doubt if a lot of you out there have an Xbox in your wish lists. I did. Let me tell you why.

But let me start by saying that nowadays, it's not easy to get an Xbox—the latest gaming console from Microsoft (yes, the software company).

The Xbox was launched in the US Nov. 15, and around half a million units were reportedly shipped. Since then, Flextronics—the company which manufactures the actual Xbox hardware in their Mexico plant—has been shipping thousands of Xboxes more to California (the nearest state to Mexico by truck) and the other parts of the US.

Microsoft and Flextronics hope to ship a total of 1.5 million units by year-end. At this point you might ask: "Who'd buy 1.5 million units of a gaming console a mere six weeks after its launch?" You'd be surprised to know that every single Xbox unit has been sold so far, and you'd be lucky to find one on the shelves.

The Xbox has been sold out since Nov. 15, and as weekly stocks are trucked in to US stores, they are immediately bought off the shelves. Worse, Microsoft has stopped pre-ordering Xboxes since they're unsure if they'd be able to supply the demand. So if you want your relatives abroad to get you one, better tell them to line up fast.

I say this by experience. Since California is the first drop-off point of Xboxes from Mexico, I thought San Francisco—the high-tech city which is bound to have an Xbox in one of its many electronics stores—would be a perfect place to acquire an Xbox. Little did I know that it would take me no less than an ordeal to get one.

While in San Francisco, I knew some stores would be out of Xboxes, but I never thought all of them would be out of stock. I walked around downtown San Francisco under the rain

without an umbrella with five pieces of clothing on my back to block the chilly air, looking for an Xbox. No luck. The next day was colder, but this time I was armed with a trenchcoat and an umbrella. Still no luck.

"The week's supply is gone," they all say. "Try again next week. They (the new Xbox stock) usually come in on Tuesdays, about 25 units. But be here early because by noon they're all gone."

I couldn't believe it. Now I know why even Microsoft Philippines has only one Xbox unit here in the country. Aside from myself, the only other guy I know who has an Xbox in the Philippines is Paco Magsaysay, the son of Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. who now heads the family's cable business. I was with Paco in San Francisco July last year for the Garage.com boot camp (during the dotcom boom). There's also a friend of mine, Infochat host and managing director Jerry Liao, who won an Xbox during the Christmas party of Microsoft Philippines, but he won't get his unit till January. By the way, if you're in the Philippines and you happen to have an Xbox, drop me a line at leo@inq7.net. Let's see if we can start a mailing list.

So now you know that I was, in the end, able to get an Xbox. And it happened in the weirdest way. I was on my way back to the hotel, passing Virgin Megastore and just before Kantaro Sushi on Mason, when I saw the back entrance of a small Circuit City branch. I was too busy looking for an Xbox at bigger Circuit City branches or CompUSA or Fry's or the usual suspects that I failed to look at the store nearest to my hotel. I thought I'd give it a try, but was already pessimistic.

"Hi," I told the Asian-American store clerk who looked a bit like Samo Hung in his teens. "What's up?" he shoots back at me. These kids have a way of saying "What's up?" instead of "Can I help you?" or "What can I do for you?"

"You wouldn't happen to have an Xbox lying around here somewhere, would you?" I told Samo. "Sorry, man," and then he gestures to the shelves. There were PlayStations and GameCubes there, but no Xbox. "Come back..." said Samo, but I cut him short before he could finish his sentence. "I know, I know: Come back next week, right? Thanks anyway but I'm leaving in a couple of days," I told him.

Samo smiled while shaking his head, and then said: "Let me see what I can do for you."

He went to the computer and checked Circuit City's inventory. I guess he was trying to find out which branch still had some in stock. After a few seconds, Samo's eyebrows knotted. It looked like he was preparing to give the computer a two-fisted dragonfly attack or probably a turning hyena kick. Then he said the most beautiful words of all: "Strange, it says here that we still have one Xbox in stock."

"Here, in this store?" I asked. "Yes," he said. "But I know we sold the last one a few days ago." Samo then said that none of the units remain on the shelves but one probably remained in the stock room. He went upstairs to take a look.

I waited for about two minutes, listening to Samo asking his fellow employees on his way upstairs if they saw an Xbox in the stock room somewhere. None of them said yes. The teenage Circuit City store clerks all gave Samo this almost unintelligible rap-like answer which I guess, when summarized, meant "No." The funny thing is, none of them were black. They were all Asian-Americans talking like Chris Rock.

Anyway, two minutes and 120 thumb twiddles later, Samo came down the stairs carrying a black and green box. And it had an X on it. It was a sight to behold. It was like one of those movies where a very young Molly Ringwald would be shown—in slow motion—going down the stairs, garbed in her prom dress, feet first, the camera shot panning up to her knees, then her thighs, then her pert little chest, then her smile, with the

THE LAST/ p.B5

The basics

YOU can't buy Xboxes in the Philippines yet, although I hear that some local stores, including one in the Shangri-la Mall, are selling Xbox bundles for an unbelievable P45,000. If you get one in the US and bring it back here, the same thing would cost you about only half that price. Not even Japan will have them till late February next year. You'd be lucky to get a non-gray market Xbox here by the third quarter of next year. Same thing goes with Xbox titles. That is, of course, until the gray market brings it into the country or piracy makes Xbox games available. However, if you have relatives in the United States who are coming home,

you might want to ask them to line up soon since Xbox units are selling like hotcakes.

But let's go through the Xbox basics first, shall we? An Xbox is a game console manufactured by Flextronics for Microsoft Corp. It is a 128-bit machine like its competitors GameCube (from Nintendo) and PlayStation 2 (from Sony). Nowadays, only the GameCube and the PS2 are being considered as within the league of Xbox. In other words, if you have a Sega Dreamcast or a PSOne, forget it.

Although the Xbox, GameCube and PS2 are basically in

THE BASICS/ p.B5

The hardware

makes the Xbox basically a personal computer with the sole purpose of playing games and none of that buggy Windows halting the system every now and then.

However, even though on paper the Xbox's hardware is far more superior than that of the PS2 or the GameCube, I found little difference in terms of speed and graphics processing when I checked out the new GameCube titles. I was able to play some 'Cube games in stores, and I must admit they're really stunning, too. Which makes some industry observers including myself believe that current Xbox titles were rushed for launch, and that the system's full potential will be

reached only when the next batch of games come along.

The Xbox also has four controller ports, and you can use one of them to plug in a DVD playback kit which costs \$30. It's a device the size of a Zippo lighter which you plug into one of the controller ports. With the use of a special remote control which comes with the DVD accessory, you can now play DVD movies (Region 1 since this baby's from the US) on your Xbox. I've actually been tripping out on Region 1 DVDs on my Xbox aside from playing games. You can also use the Xbox to play your standard music CDs without any add-ons, unlike the GameCube which uses

the mini-DVD format so you can't play standard DVDs or audio CDs. You can even actually rip a CD and store a song on the hard drive and play that song while playing your favorite game. So if you want to play Abba's "Chiquitita" while Jann Lee is beating the crap out of Brad Wong the drunken master, by all means do so. Or if you want Mae Rivera's "Aray" to be the background music while Shaq is doing a two-handed gorilla, then go ahead. Whatever turns you on.

So, my Xbox doubles as a DVD player and a CD player which you can use to rip your favorite songs, load them onto the hard drive and match your favorite games.

The games

of the game by EA Sports, you'd still see some of the same moves, profiles and rough edges. The court-side commentary is repetitive, and so are the actions players make during fouls, free throws or substitutions.

The graphics is a lot better than the old PS version, but it doesn't do justice to the power of the Xbox. You still see rough edges and not-so-smooth moves. The game also has a bug. Pause it for a long time during the third quarter and the commentator voices disappear. Wait another minute and the game will hang. This happened to me three times already, always in the third quarter and always leaving the ball hanging in mid-air. Talk about hang-time.

In my opinion, you should wait for the next NBA Live version, the one which will come out in 2002. This one was rushed to meet the Xbox launch date. A far cry from this game is Dead or Alive 3, which will leave your jaws hanging because of its beautiful

and smooth graphics. It's like watching a computer-generated animated film. If you're used to the PS Tekken of old, DOA3 will blow your mind away.

The players' clothing and hair actually flow, and they cast shadows and reflections real-time in magnificently rendered environments. The environments are huge. While in Tekken you fight your opponent in 2D (always either left to right or the other way around), in DOA 3 the camera angles move around, and you can go through different environments in one fight. Kick your opponent through a window and it will crash, and you follow him outside to a different environment and dish out some more beating. Push him off a cliff and you follow him down, down, down with the camera following your every move.

In short, DOA 3 has got to be the most visually stunning game so far on any platform.

THE GAMES/ p.B5

READ MORE ABOUT THIS STORY ONLINE

inq7.net

The full text of this review cannot be accommodated entirely in print due to space constraints, but you can read the whole story online at www.inq7.net, plus more background stories about the Xbox. Follow the links below:

Xbox Xplored on Xmas
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2001/dec/24/inf_digitalinq-1.htm

The call of the Xbox
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2001/nov/19/inf_digitalinq-1.htm

Microsoft Xbox launch to heat up game console wars
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2001/nov/17/inf_3-1.htm

X marks the spot
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2001/nov/16/inf_2-1.htm

THE XBOX and its controllers are big and heavy. The unit itself is just about the size of a VHS player. It weighs more than 8 lb, is 12 3/4 inches wide, 10 1/4 inches deep and 3 1/2 inches tall, but the box and padding make it a lot bulkier and hard to carry out of the store (mine had to be placed in four bags so the plastic handles won't break). The console's size is due in part to the awesome hardware inside—a fast 250MHz nVidia graphics processor, a 733-MHz Intel Pentium III, built-in broadband adapter (Ethernet), an 8-Mb hard disk drive, 64 Mb of memory, a system fan and lots of heat sinks. This

That's what third-party developers are familiar with—developing for Pentium systems and using the hard drive to speed up the game. And if PC counterparts of Xbox games pop up, this would drive more PC sales and upgrades to faster PCs with the latest Windows version (i.e., XP). Conversely, PC games would be ported to the Xbox, which makes Microsoft win in both situations. I tell you, dear reader, if you look into that glowing Xbox jewel on top of the console—the green one with the word "xbox" on it—I swear you'd see Bill Gates laughing his brains out while swimming in a ton of dollars (which are, by the way, also green). Can't see him yet? Just look closer and longer.

Anyway, let's talk about the games I've tried. First, the disappointment. NBA Live 2002 wasn't as spectacular as I thought it would be. Although some might be happy to see Michael Jordan donning his Washington Wizards jersey in this latest version

I WAS able to get only three of the 17 launch titles for the Xbox. These are Dead or Alive 3, Project Gotham Racing and NBA Live 2002. Why only three? They cost \$54 each, that's why. Of the 17 launch titles, five are published by Microsoft. Some of the five, like Halo by Bungee and Project Gotham by Bizarre Creations and Oddworld: Much's Oddysee were developed by third-party developers but "produced" or published by Microsoft. This shows how serious Microsoft is in developing games for the Xbox. Why? Because sales of Windows are declining, and by getting the market excited about the prospect of new games, some of that excitement might rub off on the PC market. The Xbox is basically a PC, with its hard drive and Intel processor.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER



FISH RALLY. A massive protest action is being held in Philippine waters against the harm caused by illegal and destructive fishing practices. The organisers need your support. Donate to WWF now by calling 433 3222.

CHRISemmas Exposé!

We've just discovered that Santa did not produce gifts for his present this year.

We've caught him employing the help of RISE-CYBERMALL, an online shopping mall where you can order a variety of quality goods at a very reasonable price without the hassle of going to traditional malls.

Now you can shop with ease because whatever you buy will be delivered on your doorstep--pronto! Now that's faster than Rudolph!

So, that's the reason why Santa opted to shop at RISE-CYBERMALL....

Why don't you? So you can have a merry ChRISemmas!

www.risecybermall.com

Invite 2.8 million people to come inside your house.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 50% according to the 1999 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

TYT '2000 4-wheel drive P1.4M Neg. T-3456781

Invite 2.8 million people to test drive your car.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 50% according to the 1999 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

IBM Pentium-3 700 MHz 240 MB P32T T-3456781

Invite 2.8 million people to surf on your computer.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 50% according to the 1999 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

Invite 2.8 million people to surf on your computer.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 50% according to the 1999 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

BUSINESS CENTER OPERATIONS

METRO MANILA BUSINESS CENTER
RISE PACO
Mr. Allen T. Restarbo
1155 J.L. Escoda Street,
Paco Market, Paco, Manila
Tel. Nos. (02) 582-0645/(02) 524-9546
Telefax: (02) 495-0009
Mobile: (0917) 498-7882/(0919) 801-2633

RISE CHIT PANDACAN
Ms. Nelsa Salvo
1944 A. Sampaguita Street,
Pandacan, Manila
Tel. Nos. (02) 581-8605/(02) 581-8980

RISE ROOSEVELT QC
Ms. Myrtle R. Tanco
Unit 7, 3F 316 Roosevelt Ave.,
SFD, QC
Tel. No. (02) 330-9259 Telefax: (02) 372-9081
Mobile: (0917) 540-1834
E-mail: mrtanco@yahoo.com

RISE AD MANDALUYONG
Ms. Arnela Ruiz
Unit 1121 Cityland Shaw Tower, Shaw Blvd.
cor. St. Francis St., Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. (02) 687-1190 Telefax: (02) 687-2003
Mobile: (0919) 3627295/(0919) 3627298

RISE PROJECT 8 QC
198 B, Road 29, Project 8, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (02) 454-0619/(02) 454-0600
Telefax: Home (02) 927-2314
Office (02) 425-1443 Mobile: (0917) 8118079
E-mail: mredes@pacific.net.ph

RISE PASAY ROAD MAKATI
Mr. Anthony Arcega
5554 F. Biny St. cor. Valderama St.,
Brgy. Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel. Nos. (02) 887-5446
Mobile: (0917) 488-9845

RISE WINNER MAKATI EDSA
Ms. Amber Tolosa
1895 Evangelista cor. Linares St., Bengkal,
Makati City
Tel. Nos. (02) 843-8541/(02) 843-8542
Mobile: (0917) 405-3437

RISE DZ MAKATI
Ms. Lina Lopez
5788 Fortune Bldg., Kalyan Ave.,
Brgy. Pinagkaisahan, Makati City
Tel. No. 881-8780 Telefax: 882-3636
Mobile: (0917) 2021758

RISE CYBIZ QC
Ms. Lourdes Agbayani
18 Antonio Luna St., Project 4,
Quezon City
Tel. No. 437-0870 Telefax: (02) 913-8564
Mobile: (0917) 3871023/(0919) 8328771
E-mail: rhecylbz@edsmail.com.ph

RISE E-CUBAO
Ms. Nila Cafelal
Room 403 Diamond Bldg., 603 EDSA,
Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (02) 410-2916/(02) 721-3386
Telefax: Mobile: (0917) 4946023

RISE CYBER CENTRAL
DILIMAN QC
Ms. Junie Olivas
Telefax: (02) 831-8063
Mobile: (0917) 8374484

RISE COMMONWEALTH GROUP
Ms. Ofelia J. Ballesta 628 Grapes St.,
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No. (02) 428-0849
Telefax: (02) 932-2490

RISE MYMAR
Ms. Rosalinda Jugo 17 General Isidro
Torres St., Gallier Heights Subd., Bantat,
Quezon City
Telefax: (02) 933-4246
Mobile: (0919) 8280792

RISE E-COMMERCE MARIKINA
Ms. Erlinda C. Serna 302, Azarcon Bldg., #51 Bayanbayan Avenue,
Marikina Heights, Marikina City
Telefax: (02) 334-7764
Mobile: (0919) 3949151

RISE GLOBAL CITY TAGUIG
Ms. Regina C. Velasco
#43 Col. Cuasay St. (fronting 8th St.) Don
Juan, Signal Village, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos. (02) 835-9773/(02) 838-7883
Mobile: (0919) 8990289

RISE E-NOVALICHES
Ms. Emma C. Daniel
2/F Our Lady of Mercy Bldg., Quirino
Highway corner Ramirez St., Novaliches
Proper, Quezon City
Tel. No. (02) 935-8361
Telefax: (02) 417-8332
Mobile: (0919) 872-3688

RISE E-CONSUMERS CENTER CAJALTA
Ms. Emma Licuanan
VV Soliven corner Felix Avenue, (Infront of
Soundstage), Cajalta, Rizal
Tel. Nos. (02) 249-0284/(02) 681-9069 /
(02) 645-4218 Telefax: (02) 645-8244
Mobile: (0917) 3629937/(0919) 4776239

RISE E-POWER
Salle 210 & 212, Mindanao Nova Realty
Bldg., (near Quirino H-Way) Mindanao
Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (02) 835-8328
Telefax: (02) 935-9074
Mobile: (0917) 3629673/(0919) 8573239/
(0919) 3889039

RISE LAS PIÑAS
Mr. Maricar G. Yambot
2/F 414 National Road, Talon, Las Piñas City
Telefax: (02) 600-6072 Mobile: (0919) 2933291
E-mail: maricar.g.yambot@gmail.com.ph

RISE BLU NAVOTAS
Mr. Bernie Uy
619 L.S. Chua Bldg., M. Naval, Navotas,
Metro Manila
Tel. Nos. (02) 2630358/2627915/(02) 8503368
5244286 Telefax: (02) 2826338
Mobile: (0919) 3782888

RISE PARANAQUE CITY
Ms. Mariou Espiritu
24-C Dona Solidad Avenue, Better Living,
Paranaque City
Tel. Nos. (02) 621-1188 / (02) 821-4764
Telefax: (02) 821-1155 Mobile: (0919) 4482868
E-mail: ihouseprfr@yahoo.com

RISE TRISOME VALENCIUELA
Ms. Mildred G. Debut
Unit 1 Kappelon Bldg., #51 McArthur Highway,
Marulas, Valenzuela City
Tel. No. (02) 227-2153 Telefax: (02) 277-2164
Mobile: (0917) 5280043
E-mail: trisomegode@gmail.com.ph

RISE PINOY SAMPALOC
Ms. Estela "Bing" Diaz-Ramalan
1001 G. Tolentino corner E. de los Reyes,
Sampaloc, Manila
Telefax: (02) 736-3070
Mobile: (0917) 4658034/(0919) 471-3040
E-mail: risepinoy@yahoo.com

RISE BUSINESS CENTER PASAY
Ms. Sincerely Moreno/ Ms. Angella Valencia
GF. Villaruel Tower, 245 Villaruel St.,
Pasay City
Tel. Nos. (02) 518-4211 to 19 local 1004
Mobile: (0919) 8952994/(0919) 6881613/
(0917) 8319631

RISE TAYTAY RIZAL
Ms. Tevelita Mallaca
Kaydilling Road, Ortigas Avenue Extension,
Taytay, Rizal
Tel. No. (02) 860-8381/(02) 6604382
Telefax: (02) 294-2416

LUZON BUSINESS CENTER
RISE EXCEL PANAGASINAN
Mr. Manuel G. Valdez 2/F, Tandingan Bldg.,
Nancayasan Urdaneta City, Pangasinan
Telefax: (075) 588-7410
Mobile: (0917) 4473280

RISE E-COMMERCE DAGUPAN
Mr. Genaro Bonoilla 130 Gulling St.,
Dagupan City
Tel. Nos. (075) 515-3347 Telefax: (075) 5153496
Mobile: (0919) 8649794/(0917) 3654775

RISE SF LA UNION
Mr. Socrates Reedy Relama National HI-Way, Brgy.
Pagdaraon St., San Fernando, La Union
Telefax: (072) 700-1935 Mobile: (0919) 883-2682

RISE DINS E-COMMERCE BAGUIO CITY
Mr. Ferdinand G. Tangalla/ Ms. Bella Navala Rm 204
National Life Bldg., 110 Session Road, Baguio City
Telefax: (074) 447-0795
Mobile: (0919) 216-2997/(0919) 670-9848

RISE MALOLOS BULACAN
June Zafra Paseo del Congreso Ave.,
Malolos, Bulacan
Tel. No. (044) 731-7641

RISE BIRAN LAGUNA
Ms. Lilibeth Caner
Unit 305 University Center, National
HI-Way, Biran, Laguna
Tel. Nos. (048) 838-0878/(048) 411-0389
Telefax: (048) 8391156
Mobile: (0919) 8195890/(0919) 5768235

RISE VIRMAL BATANGAS
Mr. Virgilio Lichanco Lycour Cila, Kumintang Bkba,
Batangas City
Tel. Nos. (043) 300-2001 Telefax: (043) 300-5815

RISE PALAWAN, INC.
Mr. Nixon Edora
San Juan Bldg., National HI-Way, San Pedro,
Puerto Princesa City
Tel. Nos. (048) 433-5254
Telefax: (048) 434-3680 Mobile: (0919) 2350083

VISAYAS BUSINESS CENTERS
RISE KALIBO AKLAN
Ms. Della Lagasp/ Ms. Rosalita Sauza
1503 G. Pastana St., Kalibo, Aklan
Tel. No. (036) 262-3562 Telefax: (036) 2627228
Mobile: (0917) 6445180/(0917) 6441050

RISE NYALA BACOLOD
Ms. Maria Suzette Diaz-Ea
Nyala Rent-A-Car C-7, Goldenfields Commercial
Complex, Singsang, Bacolod City
Tel. No. (034) 433-1049 Telefax: (034) 434-4589
Mobile: (0918) 9403282

RISE ILOILO
2/F Amigo Plaza Mall, Iznart corner Delgado St.,
Iloilo City Telefax: (033) 336-5906

RISE CENTER BOHOL
GF OVO Business Plaza, CPO North Avenue,
Tagbilaran City, Bohol
Tel. No. (038) 235-5927 Telefax: (038) 235-5896
Mobile: (0917) 811-6079 E-mail: mredes@pacific.net.ph

RISE LAPU-LAPU
Jose Marie Gilmore HR Tourist Hotel Pusok,
Lapu-Lapu City
Tel. No. (032) 495-4841

RISE CEBU SOUTH
Ms. Elizabeth Montelo PNB Uptown Jethouse Bldg.,
Rm. 302 Omeña Blvd., Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 254-4484

RISE TALISAY
Ms. Marietta Buco 2/F Espiritu Bldg., HI-Way
Bulacanon corner South Gate Subd., Talisay City
Tel. No. (032) 273-1530 Telefax: (032) 273-2440

RISE MANDAUJE CITY, CEBU
Mr. Samuel Quiho 801 Albano St. Subangdaku,
Mandauje City
Tel. No. (032) 345-8711 Telefax: (032) 343-6490

RISE DANAÖ
Bonhiv Complex, Sebang, Danao City
Tel. No. (032) 700-6176

RISE CEBU CITY, INC.
Mr. Ramiro "Spinas" Espina
Unit 6 Galleria Fuente, Mango Avenue, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 412-4792/(032) 253-2547
Mobile: (0919) 828-6083

SUB CENTER OPERATIONS
RISE MIAGAO ILOILO
Ms. Nery U. Gayalagay
2/F Unit 203 Nita Plaza Bldg., Tjanlangit St.,
Migao, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 312-3370
Telefax: (033) 315-9614
Mobile: (0917) 9824372/(0917) 6405122

RISEPHILS, MULTIRICH, INC.
Amigo Plaza Mall, Iznart cor. Delgado St.,
Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 337-0252 Telefax: (033) 3366774
Mobile: (0917) 8470477/(0919) 8326192

RISE SUCAT PHILS, INC.
Mr. William Sy
1022 Dr. Alvaro Santos Ave., Sucat,
Parralaga City
Tel. Nos. (02) 825-5687/(02) 825-1546
Telefax: (02) 828-9788

RISE TACLOBAN
Mr. Renato Rodan or Ms. Becky
Rm. 303, Dynasty Square Bldg., Zamora St.
Tacloban City, Leyte
Tel. No. (053) 325-3738
Telefax: (053) 325-3739

**For your Classified Ads requirements,
call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:**

HEAD OFFICE: 897-8808
loc. 514, 516
899-4425; 897-2535
897-8425 (Telefax)

CUBAO : 912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)

MAKATI : 892-5578, 811-4361 811-4370

KALAW : 528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL : 635-0219, 635-0220

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

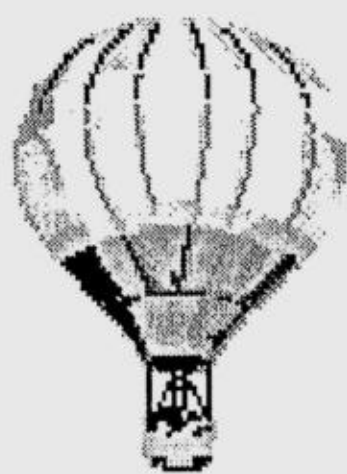
Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements. For inquiries, please call **912-9008 to 11.**

TO MONUMENTO

TO STA. MEGA

TO MAKATI

TO MARIKINA



**Get
your
career
off
the
ground.**

JOB MARKET

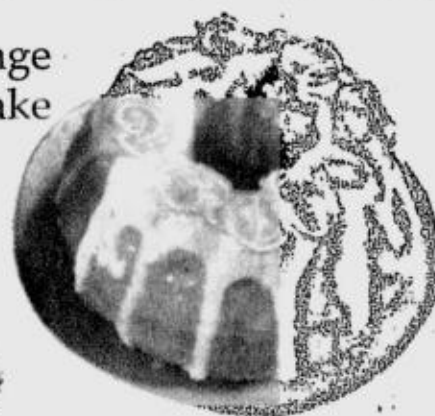
Now on-line at
www.jobmarket.com.ph



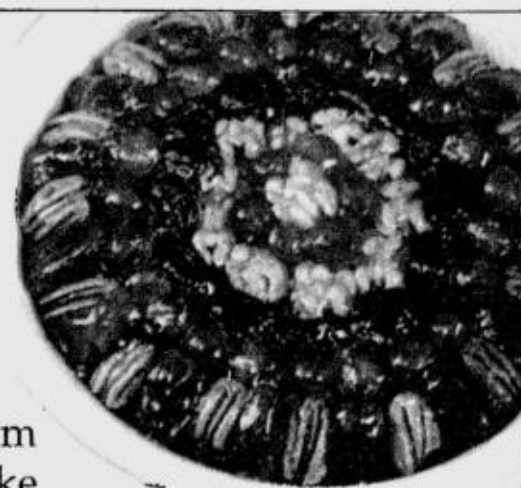
There's a career in here.

JOB MARKET
www.inquirer.net/jobmarket

Orange
Rhum Cake



Premium
English Fruitcake



X'mas
Fruit Tart



French Noël

Delifrance

*Delifrance
plays Santa for
an authentic
joyeux Noël
(and don't be
surprised
if Santa can't
keep away from all
those goodies, too).*



Delifrance

C'est Fresh! C'est French!



Be the first 100 guests to get FREE MINI FRENCH WINE at Delifrance Greenhills Theater Mall, Rockwell, Eastwood, Roosevelt and UN Avenue. Cut this ad and present it together with your proof of single purchase worth P500 from December 16 to 30, 2001.

PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO.A-3-598

Greenbelt Mall Paseo de Roxas • Zeta Building Salcedo • Philam Tower Paseo de Roxas • Pacific Star Gil Puyat • Rockwell Center Power Plant Mall • Robinsons Place Ermita • SM City Manila Arrocero • SM Centerpoint Sta. Mesa • Quintin Paredes Binondo • U.N. Avenue • Greenhills Theater Mall • Libis Q.C. (Soon to Open) • Robinsons Galleria Ortigas • Sarmall Shaw Blvd. • Eastwood City Walk Libis • Alabang Town Center Muntinlupa • Festival Mall Filinvest Alabang • NAIA Terminal 2 Domestic & International • SM Supercenter Sucat • Shell-SLT Muntinlupa • Greenhills Roosevelt • Glorietta 1 • The Podium (Soon to Open)

Your work. Your workplace. Your career.

Read

PEOPLE at WORK

every Wednesday

A publication of

**PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER**

News that makes a difference



Looking for a competitive edge? Start with production

BY LEONCIO T. CUBILLAS
UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries

COMPETITION coming from both local and foreign products will exert pressure on you to seek a competitive edge—that feature which will assure your product's survival and growth in the marketplace.

GOING INTO BUSINESS

Pressure takes various forms: higher demands for quality, quicker response time, lower costs, and ability to customize according to what the user needs and wants.

Companies must develop their production capability and use it as a business strategy to slug it out in the marketplace.

The organization that capitalizes on its ability to satisfy customers by making its production resources a competitive ammunition will prosper in the marketplace.

For now, however, as a start-up entrepreneur, you need basics on how to produce. This article aims to give you broad guidelines on how to start your manufacturing set-up.

For starters, let's define terms: **Production** means goods manufacturing or service providing.

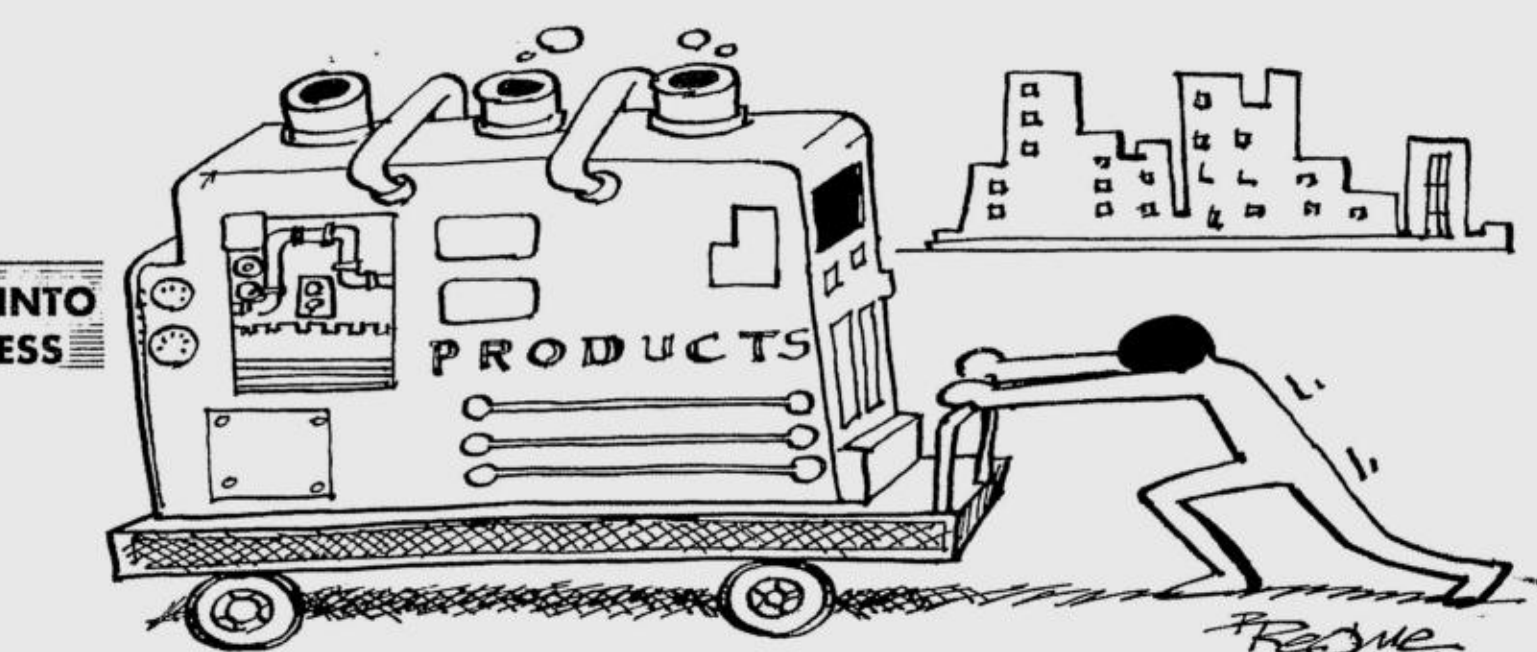
Manufacturing refers to the conversion of materials (raw materials and components) into physical goods—either of the made-to-order or off-the-shelf type.

Operations are the activities that need to be done in manufacturing to convert the materials (inputs) into the final goods (outputs).

Products are the goods and services coming out of operations.

Production system refers to the coordinated methods by which the transformation of input resources into its desired products takes place.

Production strategy refers to a



firm's explicit actions aimed at competing in the marketplace through the efficient and effective use of its production resources.

The most basic production inputs are raw materials; production methods; machine and equipment; and manpower.

Raw materials

Before your start manufacturing, you have to know what raw materials and components you need to produce them. You may either produce your own raw materials or buy them. For example, if you are a meat processor, you may either raise your own livestock or buy them from a supplier. If you are producing wooden trays, you may buy wood and cut the parts or buy pre-cut pieces.

Be sure that you can get supplies of your raw materials and components in the quality and quantity you need.

Production method

The first step in determining the methods you will use is to decide

on the level of technology. In other words, are you going to use manual technology? Semi mechanized? Or fully mechanized?

The first generally involves the use of simple, manually operated machines. Full mechanization is where production is geared to make production fully automatic.

Once you have decided on the level of technology to use, you can start determining the activities required to convert the inputs into outputs. These are called operations. The conversion usually requires a series of operations. For example, garment manufacturing would involve cutting, trimming, sewing, finishing, ironing and packing.

You must put these activities in sequence. The sequence may be fixed (for example, cutting must always precede sewing) or flexible, in cases where the sequence is not of particular importance.

The next thing to do is to decide how each of these operations may best be done. For instance,

cutting may be done with a pair of scissors or a cutting machine. This brings us to machines and equipment.

Equipment

Machines and equipment are dependent on the level of technology you have decided to use in your operations.

For any given operation, there is a wide choice of machines and equipment you can choose from, ranging from the semi-manual or pedal-type gadgets to the semi-automatic machines to the most high-tech, computerized equipment.

Machines are also classified broadly according to purpose: general purpose and specialized equipment.

General purpose machines are those that have a wide range of capability. For example, in a typical machine shop, we find the general-purpose universal lathe, drill press, milling machine and planers, which produce cylindrical surfaces, holes and flat surfaces on a wide

variety of parts and materials.

Yet, where the situation calls for it, there are special designs of these machines utilized in the production of one part or group of parts. An example might be a special lathe to produce outside diameter of an automotive piston. It has a special quick clamping device and special cutters, is of the right size and speed for your operations.

General purpose machines are best used when you have products of widely varying designs but produced in low volume.

Small businessmen may also consider having their machines fabricated by local machine shops. Another option is to buy used equipment.

Of course, there are advantages and disadvantages to each option, and you would do well to make a careful study before making a firm decision.

Labor

Knowing the operations required to produce a product or ser-

vice as well as knowing the equipment needed to perform these operations would enable you to determine the number and level of skills of manpower you need to keep your factory going.

Remember that you have a choice between getting experienced workers and inexperienced ones whom you can train on the job.

Plant layout

You have learned in a previous article (See "Selecting Your Site" PDI, Nov. 26 issue) how location is so crucial to production efficiency. One point bears repeating: locate as near as possible to your source of raw materials, manpower and other inputs to keep your transport costs low.

Also important is plant layout.

How will you arrange your machines and equipment on the shop floor? Would you like to put all equipment performing similar functions together in one section of the floor? For example, all drilling machines should be near each other or all cutting equipment side by side.

The other option is to arrange the machinery based on the sequence of their use in the process of converting inputs into outputs. This is known as the product layout.

The basic consideration is that the layout should eliminate or minimize crisscrossing or overlapping of activities on the shop floor. It should provide for the smooth and continuous flow of materials and in-process goods as well as finished products.

In later articles, we will discuss about production systems and strategies. (Would like to know more about going into business? Check out "You, Too, Can Start Your Own Business" at selected National Bookstore branches or call up UP ISSI, Ving Cinco or Emy Alegro at 928-7076 or 926-6376.)

MVP cracks jokes amid billion-dollar debts

(From page B12)

businessmen.

Behind his laugh, though, are the problems that surround the ailing First Pacific property subsidiary.

Right now, MVP has his mind (and his business plan) set on selling Metro Pacific's 55-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Corp. to help revive the bleeding company.

High profile names in business like Ayala, Gokongwei, the Rufinos and Andrew Tan (of Megaworld) have come up as prospective bidders for the huge piece of property that is 45-percent owned by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority.

Speculators have been throwing around other big names in Philippine business, including that of mall chain magnate Henry Sy.

But MVP is not about to confirm what has been going around in the rumor mill. He went as far as saying that there are "one or two" that expressed serious interest in the Bonifacio property. And that is all he is willing to divulge.

Aside from the Metro Pacific problem, he also has to face PLDT's \$1.3-billion maturing obligations from 2002 to 2004.

He is very much confident that the company's cash flow could sustain the company despite the huge amount of maturities looming in front of it.

Aside from cash flows, MVP has everything already mapped out for the country's leading telecommunications firm to be able to hurdle its debt woes.

Part of this debt-servicing plan is the sale of a 15- to 20-percent stake in PLDT's profitable wireless subsidiary Smart Communications Inc.

A highly placed source from the PLDT group earlier said PLDT was in serious talks with Japan's NTT DoCoMo and Australia's Vodafone for the sale of the minority stake.

MVP is quick to say that they are indeed in discussions with "a number of potential investors" made up of industry players and funding institutions, but he is also quick to parry questions on which entities these are.

Another course that MVP has planned for PLDT is putting a halt in its acquisition of new businesses in the near future.

Earlier in the year, news came out that PLDT would be buying a

66.67-percent stake in the country's second largest broadcast network, GMA Network Inc.

The sale was supposed to have been finalized in August, but this was pushed back due to some issues that both parties had to resolve.

Come November, PLDT totally shelved plans of acquiring a controlling stake in the network because it has to prioritize its debt issues over everything else.

But this does not mean that PLDT would not be getting a piece of GMA in the next few years as MVP said he is not closing his doors to anything.

First Pacific also has its own problems to hurdle. It has maturing bond obligations set to fall due in March next year.

But MVP seems to be taking all of these problems in stride. He is still able to laugh and joke about the state of his businesses and everything else that he has to deal with.

His vision also never fades. He said he has "a few ideas" on what the "third leg" of First Pacific would be in the coming years.

The Hong Kong-based conglomerate earlier disposed of its manufacturing arm Berli Jucker Public Co. Ltd. in Thailand and its pharmaceutical company Daryavaria in order for it to be able to refocus its business and capitalize on its strengths.

He says First Pacific would be focusing on its cash cows and revenue drivers: telecommunications by way of PLDT and food through Indofood.

The "third leg" would most probably be in the area of "necessities," he adds.

MVP flew to the United States last week to undergo a minor knee surgery. It is not the stress of having to hurdle all his problems that injured his knee. It is actually the rigors of regular squash sessions.

PLDT vice president for media and corporate communications Menardo "Butch" Jimenez Jr. says MVP is "a Class A squash player."

So with all the stress and the energy spent on work, MVP still finds time to relax and unwind, after all.

Well, maybe only when he is not staying in his seventh floor office at the PLDT Ramon Cojuangco building until the wee hours of the morning.

Treat people fairly and they'll deliver, says Aussie exec

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

AT THE helm of Lafayette Australia Inc.'s first and only subsidiary in Asia is someone who is not new to the difficulties faced by local and foreign companies engaged in the Philippine mining industry.

Roderick Watt had worked with Western Mining's Tampacan project in South Cotabato. Though Western Mining has abandoned the project due to the strong opposition from various groups, Rod Watt is willing to try his luck again with Lafayette.

"What we could bring here is not just the investment but technology and computerized techniques in the processing of metals," says the 41-year-old executive.

"Mining projects could bring good economic returns to the Philippines, though several misconceptions must be dealt upon," he adds.

Rod has been in the mining industry for the past 20 years. He observes that the Philippine mining industry went through a lot of bad experiences and suffers from misconceptions.

These concerns, he notes, may have slowed down the growth of the mining sector, which is already a difficult business in the first place given the economics and technical know-how involved in a mining project.

When Rod was in Western Mining, he was able to work with the B'laans of Mindanao, one of the indigenous groups in the area. The key to successfully dealing with indigenous groups, he explains, is to treat them fairly from day one.

"We should never have an approach wherein we do not recognize these people. We have to work with the indigenous peoples and explain the benefits of the project. That is right way to do it," he says.

He says this does not only mean discussing the project's pros and cons but listening to their concerns and addressing them as well.

"The misconception that the livelihood and school-houses built in the project site are forms of bribery should be corrected.

They are there to improve their lives. I would never forget how important the schools are for the B'laan children, who have to walk three miles every day to school," says Rod. "That for me is a really rewarding experience."

Respect

Managers and staff working in the Philippine mining industry have got to have a better understanding of this value from day one of a project, Rod says.

Working with the Philippine indigenous peoples groups has shaped Rod's philosophy in project management.

He adds that this open management style also works in running a company. He stresses that it also pays to encourage and delegate tasks to people.

"Respect the people you deal with because everybody has an opinion. Some opinions may even be better than yours, even if you are the manager," Rod says. "In the Philippines, being an autocratic manager may not be too effective."

With Lafayette, Rod has about 130 Filipinos under him, which he says are very effective in their jobs.



ROD WATT, country manager, Lafayette (Philippines) Inc.

Lafayette is the developer of the \$200-million copper-zinc-gold-silver mining project in Rapu-Rapu, Albay in Bicol province. The project was recently granted an environmental clearance certificate by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

With the present challenges in Lafayette, he says he is still confident that he could bring the project to actual production.

He shares that he has been enjoying his stay in Manila though he will never get used to the traffic jams.

"I have even enjoyed some of the local dishes here like the *kilawing* tuna and *sinigang na hipon*," says Rod.

How to defuse the garbage time bomb

(From page B11)

7. Obtain reliable information for national, regional and local planning.

"There are many gaps in the data," says the World Bank. "Without proper data, long-term planning decisions cannot be reliably made, and the risk of crises is higher."

Government should set up local, regional and national databases.

8. Ensure the proper manage-

ment of closed dumps and sanitary landfills.

The landfills in Carmona and San Mateo were not managed well, so the public outcry forced them to close. Meanwhile the open dump at Payatas reeks with methane gas, putting the scavengers in danger of explosions. Such sites must be properly contained.

9. Protect the vulnerable and underserved.

The communities of the poor are often neglected in garbage collec-

tion. The most at risk are those that scavenge in the mountains of garbage.

"Some live near garbage disposal sites and are thus exposed to unsanitary conditions (contaminated groundwater and air pollution) and safety risks (explosions and the collapse of garbage piles)," reports the World Bank.

10. Expand the coverage of treating medical and hazardous waste.

Hazardous wastes are those that can threaten health if not handled properly. These include acid, alkalis, and other toxins. Medical wastes, which come from hospital patients, are infectious and amount to 18 tons per day.

These types of trash need special treatment, like incineration. However, the Clean Air Act has banned incineration, and this creates problems for medical and hazardous wastes. The issue should be reviewed.

A seamless infrastructure plan

THE PHILIPPINES needs to do something dramatic and observable to awaken investor interest and perk up the economy.

Inadequate infrastructure is always listed in the top three defects of the country. Hence focusing on providing adequate infrastructure makes the most logical sense.

(The other two top issues are corruption and bureaucracy, far more difficult to deal with.)

Central through southern Luzon (including Metro Manila) accounts for some 57 percent of the country's gross domestic product. More importantly, 62 percent of this is industrial economy.

So it makes sense to concentrate limited resources in this area first. It should get priority infrastructure support even if this unfortunately must be at the expense of other regions for now.

But doing so under existing systems won't work—this is so evidently

shown by the inadequacy of the current infrastructure mix even after several years have lapsed since the enabling BOT law was passed—in 1991.

And despite the desire, and clearly, urgent need, for more infrastructure.

The government does not have the funds to accelerate infrastructure buildup, but the private sector does—or can have it if properly encouraged (five to 10 years just to get started doesn't encourage).

So it must be tapped more aggressively by making it attractive to invest. Speed, consistency, transparency are essential to do this.

Something radically different needs to be tried.

We suggest hiring an independent, well-known, reputable international entity to take over the normal government function of preparing, bidding-out, evaluating and awarding BOT projects.

The process, from solicitation to awarding, must be fully transparent.

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Peter L. Wallace



With set deadlines and timetables reflecting a much greater sense of urgency. An independent audit done by one of the major accounting firms should be part of the process to make it more transparent.

Once a decision is made no objection will be permitted via the issuing of TROs, etc. Only an appeal (but not a restraining order) to the Supreme Court will be allowed, and then only on the proviso that should the challenger win and take over the project (which by then may have started), he will fully reimburse the other party for all work done to date.

Owners of land required for a

project must surrender that land (the law of eminent domain must prevail) but be paid immediately its fair market value plus a premium of, say, 50 percent to compensate for the dislocation (the cost is negligible compared to the benefit to the economy of a completed project).

Squatters will be relocated without right to oppose, but will be provided with alternative income sources at least equal to, or better than what they currently earn.

Congress would be requested to pass the necessary laws to achieve the above. And to pass a law similar to RA 7648 or the Electric Power Crisis Act of 1993 that provided then President Fidel V. Ramos with emergency powers to fast-track provision of electric power. Congress should cooperate by passing that law within three months.

We then suggest that this system and its attendant powers be used to rush the construction of an integrated

road and rail system that interconnects the key economic centers from Tarlac to Batangas in one seamless model.

Once completed it should be possible to transport a container from Batangas to Clark in less than three hours, or from the furthestmost tip of Calabarzon (Quezon) to Manila port in two hours—instead of the current average of at least four to five hours—plus 9-15 hours of truck ban.

It should be possible for someone living in Cavite to get to work in Makati in 30 minutes.

There are two principal components of this proposed system: One is an expressway system that seamlessly connects all key centers in a manner that provides uninterrupted traffic flow. The other is to complete the light rail system so that commuters can travel from their homes to work swiftly and efficiently.

In doing this, all provincial buses will transfer passengers at specially designed terminals at the Northern

and Southern edges of the Greater Manila Area onto the LRT system.

Modern, smaller shuttle buses would move people from the city stations to their place of work and back. While the PNR lines would be upgraded and the squatters removed (this must, finally, happen. It is absurd that a few people can so hamper national development).

In both systems a single e-pass or swipe card would be used that would be useable on any part of the system.

We venture to suggest that if this were to be done it would attract investment and economic growth that could finally break the 7-percent GDP rate on a sustainable basis.

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines, president of AYC Consultants Inc. and president of EIU Philippines. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph)

How to defuse the garbage time bomb

BY DENNIS M. ARROYO

(Second of two parts)

AS NOTED in my previous article, the Philippines faces a garbage time bomb. The nation's trash output will rise by 40 percent by 2010, according to the World Bank's Environment Monitor 2001. The report says only 70 percent of urban refuse is collected, and 40 percent in the rural areas.

Just 2 percent of the garbage are disposed in closed sanitary landfills, while 75 percent are left to rot in open dumps.

"At the moment, the sad reality is that this beautiful country is being spoiled by garbage, in the streets of Metro Manila and in the countryside," says World Bank country director Robert Vance Pulley. "And the situation gets worse each day."

How can the garbage crisis be resolved? The study presents the following challenges, including economic solutions.

1. Strengthen enforcement and provide better incentives.

"The Philippines has a poor record of enforcing environmental legislation due to the lack of political will, institutional capacity, and incentives," says the Environment Monitor report.

Much political will was seen in framing the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. This should be channeled to enforce the law. So far the incentives for effective trash management are limited to recognition programs like Galing Pook and the Clean and Green.

The state should put in place more incentives to encourage market development, among others.

2. Build the capacity of national and local institutions.

The main responsibility for effective trash management lies with local governments, sweeping more than 42,000 barangays. The latter should be informed about their role in segregation, collection, recycling and composting.

3. Address the NIMBY syndrome: not in my backyard.

This is a major political hurdle: residents oppose efforts to establish a trash facility in their area. NIMBY arises because people are familiar only with unsanitary open dumps, like those of Payatas. They are not aware that it is possible to have clean closed landfills.

"Demonstration landfills that are properly managed will give the public greater confidence that landfills can be safely constructed," says the report.

4. Raise public awareness on the benefits of proper solid waste management.

We now have the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act. However, trash management is often seen as only the government's job. The reality is that sanitation needs support from every household. Success in solid waste management "largely depends on the support of the people."

5. Increase expenditures on solid waste management.

Local government typically uses public money for collecting trash and bringing it to the open dumps. More money is needed to convert the open dumps to controlled and sanitary landfills. Funding is needed to set up recycling programs and recovery facilities. Special processes are required to treat infectious medical and hazardous waste.

Spending on solid waste management will have to rise by P150 billion over the next 10 years.

6. Mainstream the use of new funding sources and cost-effective approaches.

The private sector should play a role. So far their only involvement is to serve as contractors for hauling garbage. They should be more active in recycling materials.

Local governments can also charge fees for garbage disposal. If residents are given quality service, they may be more willing to pay for it.

As present, methane gas just smokes from the open dumps. It would be best to process the garbage to collect the gas. In fact the gas can provide electricity for local communities. In Santiago, Chile, landfill gas meets 40 percent of the city's needs.

Landfill gas from the Payatas dump can provide 3.3 megawatts of electricity—enough for 2,459 houses in the area.

generation @ business

IT'S EASIER TO GET TO THE TOP IF YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TO CARRY.

GET A THINKPAD NOW FOR AS LOW AS P55,000*



IBM ThinkPads. Light in weight and price. Heavy on features.

The IBM ThinkPad iSeries gives you the kind of performance that has made it the most award-winning line of mobile computers, but at an affordable price.

Its integrated 56K fax modem gives you fast, easy connection to the internet wherever you are. And to add to the ease and convenience it provides, its keyboard even comes with a TrackPoint pointing device and EasyLaunch buttons. Plus you can have peace of mind even when you're away from the office with the ThinkPad Button and Access ThinkPad that link you to award-winning IBM service and support. And for a limited time only, prices start at P55,000*!

But that's not all. The IBM ThinkPad iSeries 94A and 96A models come with either an 8MB memory key or 64MB memory**. The memory key allows you to share data between any notebook or desktop system via the USB port without the need for a floppy. No software, drivers or batteries required!

So now you can become a business heavyweight without having to break your back - or your budget.

ThinkPad iSeries 1161-43A

Intel® Celeron™ processor 700 MHz • 64 MB memory
10 GB Hard Disk • 24x CDRW • Windows® Millennium Edition
13.3" TFT • NiMH Battery • 56K fax modem

P62,888

P55,000

ThinkPad iSeries 1161-72A

Intel® Pentium® III processor 700 MHz
• 64MB memory
• 10GB Hard Disk
• 24x CDRW
• Windows® Millennium Edition
• 12.1" TFT
• Lithium Ion Battery
• 56K fax modem
• With Microsoft® Office Small Business Edition

P76,888

P69,500

ThinkPad iSeries 1161-94A

Intel® Pentium® III processor 750 MHz
• 64 MB memory
• 20 GB Hard Disk
• CDRW
• Windows® Millennium Edition
• 13.3" TFT
• Lithium Ion Battery
• 56K fax modem
• With 8MB memory key or 64MB memory**

P94,888

P88,888

ThinkPad iSeries 1161-96A

Intel® Pentium® III processor 750 MHz
• 64 MB memory
• 10 GB Hard Disk
• 24x CDRW
• Windows® Millennium Edition
• 13.3" TFT
• Lithium Ion Battery
• 56K fax modem
• With 8MB memory key or 64MB memory**

P77,888

P70,500



CHOOSE AN IBM THINKPAD TODAY

call an IBM Value Partner (see listing)
or call 995-2426 or 1800-1888-0426 (toll-free) Mon-Fri only



IBM PCs use genuine Microsoft® Windows®
www.microsoft.com/piracy/howtotell

IBM Distributors: MSI Digiland Tel. No. 4397777/8384008 • Technopac Inc. Tel. No. 6378645 • Techpacific Tel. No. 7292220/8933553 loc. 8302 • IBM Corporate Value Partners: Eco I.T. Solutions Corp. Tel. No. 6872903 • Microphono Enterprise Corp. Tel. No. 7600827/8126814 • Ng Khal Development Corp. Tel. No. (032) 3463175 • Right Computer Systems Tel. No. 8137601 • Zenith Systems Corp. Tel. No. 3650530/3600395 • IBM Retail Value Partners: ABC Computers Tel. No. 7527559 • Complex International Inc. Tel. No. 7110288 • Comlink Marketing Tel. No. 6322998 • Electroworld Tel. No. 8924300 • Silicon Valley Tel. No. 3716811 to 20 • The Computer Authority Tel. No. 6378297/6371200

*Promo period valid from December 21-31, 2001 only. **Additional memory vary per outfit. Prices are VAT-inclusive. IBM product names and the e-business logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. Microsoft and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Intel, Pentium and Celeron are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries.

For DTI-NCI Permit No. 2105, Series of 2001

BUSINESSMonday

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

MVP cracks jokes amid billion-dollar debts

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

MANUEL V. Pangilinan, president and chief executive of the country's leading telecommunications service provider, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., has so many headaches that he half-jokingly challenged an INQUIRER reporter to trade places with him.

"Would you like to trade places with me?" he asked with a smile after having dinner with the editorial group of the INQUIRER staff over a week ago.

He surely has his work cut out for him, especially in the next three years

when he would have to hurdle trial upon trial: paying debts, realigning some of his businesses, trying to get new financing arrangements plus everything in between.

Despite that, this dynamic executive still finds time to laugh and joke. Well, maybe at least a few hours in a year.

He came to the INQUIRER office with a slight fever.

Clad in a navy blue sweatshirt and with a doctor in tow, some in his group must have thought the INQUIRER was going to be kind in its questions.

But the reporters were thirsty for

facts and were not about to let the elusive Pangilinan, more popularly known as the MVP of Philippine business, off the hook that easily, fever or no fever.

A question one reporter threw his way was whether shares of property firm Metro Pacific Corp., a company under Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd. where Pangilinan serves as executive chair, would merit a "buy" rating or a "sell" rating.

The only answer the reporter got was a laugh and the challenge for him to trade places with one of Asia's most respected

MVP/B10

PLDT chair and CEO keeps cool amid severe headache-causing business issues.

ERNE SARMIENTO



The Feeling & Flavors of CHRISTMAS at THE RICHMONDE



Celebrate in holiday style at The Richmond Hotel, with the best of indulgences from special room packages, to scrumptious buffets, to delectable specialties for family and friends.

HOLIDAY STAY

Sumptuous room accommodation at special in-season rates, and with the Richmond's distinctly personal style of caring.

Valid until Jan. 15, 2002

DELUXE PhP 1,800 nett

Overnight stay with buffet breakfast for two and complimentary use of pool and health club.

PREMIER PhP 2,500 nett

Overnight stay with buffet breakfast for two and complimentary use of pool and health club.

EXECUTIVE ONE-BEDROOM SUITE PhP 3,500 nett

Overnight stay with buffet breakfast for two and complimentary use of pool and health club.

EXECUTIVE TWO-BEDROOM SUITE PhP 5,000 nett

Overnight stay with buffet breakfast for three and complimentary use of pool and health club.

Rates are inclusive of applicable taxes and service charge.



BUFFETS! BUFFETS!

East and West come together in a festive celebration of the season's flavors at The Richmond Grill.

DECEMBER 24 LUNCH BUFFET

PhP 525.00++

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER BUFFET

PhP 700.00++

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH BUFFET

PhP 700.00++

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER BUFFET

PhP 850.00++

NEW YEAR'S DAY LUNCH BUFFET

PhP 700.00++

GOODIE COUNTER

Beginning Dec. 1, visit the Goodie Counter for your choice of holiday delights including Prune and Nuts Bread, Chicken Galantine, Cappuccino, Cheese Cake and Ube Ensaymada.



THE RICHMONDE HOTEL
Distinctly Richmond. Distinctly Personal.

21 San Miguel Avenue corner Lourdes Street, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. (632) 638-7777 • Fax (632) 638-8567 • Web Site: <http://www.richmondhotel.com> • E-mail: trhmtg@richmonde.com.ph



A Canon Christmas to everyone!

DEC. 14, 2001 - JAN. 31, 2002

BF800
For our baby who's now a lady
• Canon Quality Glass Lens
• Big Viewfinder
• Powerful 3-way flash
• Red eye reduction
• Self-timer
• Built-in lens cover
• **P1,995 ONLY**

AF9
Great for blow-ups
• 35mm lens
• Active AF system
• Big Viewfinder
• Powerful flash
• Easy-to-see LCD
• **P3,850 ONLY**

Mini II
Ladies' Choice
• Active 3-point AI AF system
• Convenient flash mode dial
• Ultra slim and lightweight
• **P6,325 ONLY**

AS-1
Official Beach Camera
• 32mm lens
• Active 3-point AI AF system
• Wind-proof, sand proof
• Real-image Big Viewfinder
• Splash-resistant
• **P11,350 ONLY**

Zoom65
Magnify Your World
• 38-65mm zoom lens
• 3-point AI AF Focus
• 3-way Flash Function
• Self-Timer
• **P5,995 ONLY**

Super 90w
Best for group pictures & scenic shots
• 28-90mm zoom lens
• 3-point AI AF Focus
• Auto & Manual Exposure
• 7 Pre-programmed modes
• Built-in diopter adjustment
• **P18,425 ONLY**

Super 105x
The all around zoom camera to capture life's best shots
• 38-105mm zoom lens
• Active 3-point AI AF system
• Auto exposure compensation
• Real time Release mode
• **P9,995 ONLY**

EOS 66 Kit
EF LENS
Created for the creative you
• 3 point selective autofocus
• Pop-up flash
• Clear viewfinder
• **P18,975 ONLY**

ZR 25
The perfect companion for making digital home video
• 2.5" Colored LCD
• 10x Optical zoom lens
• 200x Digital zoom
• Optical Image stabilizer
• Digital photo mode
• SD/MMC Card
• **P64,950 ONLY**

BE PROTECTED! Always demand for the CANON WARRANTY CARD issued by SUPER EAST ASIA ENTERPRISES, INC.

CANON CAMERA SHOWROOMS: Manila Main Center Tel. 241-3851 • SM Megamall Tel. 836-8038
SM City N. EDSA Tel. 020-0088 • SM City Manila Tel. 522-0250 • SM Southmall Tel. 805-0409
SM City Cebu Tel. (032)234-0847 • SM City Iloilo Tel. (033)320-1957

AVAILABLE AT BETTER CAMERA SHOPS & DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONWIDE



RENE VILLANUEVA

Portrait of a Hans Christian Andersen Award nominee

THE FIFTYSOMETHING writer stays young by writing stories for kids.



BY NENI STA. ROMANA-CRUZ
Contributor

WHEN the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) nominated writer Rene O. Villanueva for the International Board on Books for Young People's 2002 Hans Christian Andersen Award, considered the Nobel Prize of children's literature, it undertook the pleasant but challenging task of preparing a complete dossier on the author's life and art. The result was a 50-page document accompanied by 10 representative books by the author, mailed to nine jurors all over the world. The data were so voluminous they had to be put in a CD.

Villanueva is undoubtedly the most outstanding writer of children's stories in the Philippines today. His significance owes to the large and diverse collection of books he has published—to date, 58, in fiction, non-fiction, drama, poetry—and the consistent excellent literary quality of these titles.

Writing in Filipino, Villanueva has gone on to write for all age groups, adults included. He has won 29 awards in the Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature for the one-act play, full-length play, teleplay and children's story. This feat is unprecedented. Despite all that, Villanueva is little

known.

In a recent interview, Villanueva, who underwent a heart bypass surgery almost a year ago, and survived a shooting related to car theft, looks back on his childhood and talks about the writing he happily continues to do in his new Antipolo home.

On getting into children's literature by accident:

I consider myself first and foremost a playwright. I first started to

PORTRAIT/p.C2

Characters UNLIMITED

Robby RABBIT

special P49.75

For every P300 single receipt purchase FREE poster calendar. For every single receipt purchase, FREE pocket calendar. **WHOLESALE OUTLET: 245 JUAN DELA CRUZ ST. 1ST FLOOR, 1ST JAN. 31, 02. SOON TO OPEN ROBINSONS PALMAYAS**

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

Robinsons Malls Noche Pabuenas

Double the fun! Double the prize!

Shop and join the Robinsons Malls Noche Pabuenas raffle promo!

For selected purchases at all Robinsons Malls, you get a chance to win a Noche Buena gift basket and a gift pack from Palmolive Naturals Shampoo w/ Conditioner!

See flyers for details.

Promo Period: December 4, 2001 to January 6, 2002

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4038, Series of 2001

ROBINSONS Malls

Why pay 10 times more for a diamond

You can have its beauty and brilliance... for so much less.

MOISSANITE JEWELLERY

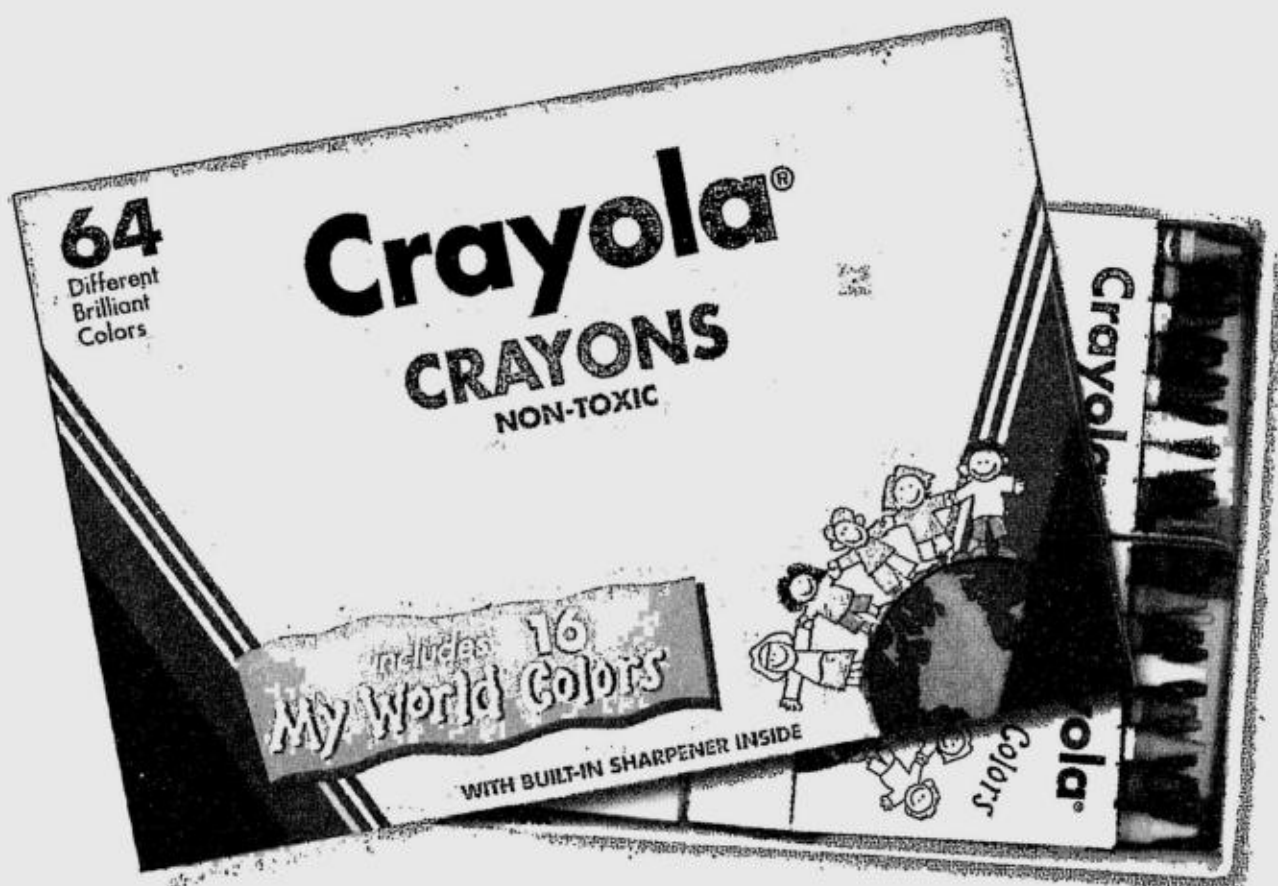
More brilliant than diamond. Costs about 90% less. So diamond-like, it's almost impossible to tell the difference.

	BRILLIANCE	FIRE	CLARITY	HARDNESS	TOUGHNESS
MOISSANITE	2.65	0.104	20.4%	9.5	Excellent
Diamond	2.42	0.044	17.2%	10	Good

MOISSANITE Created by CHARLES & COLVARD

Glorietta 1, Ayala Center Tel. 893-6521 • SM City North EDSA Tel. 926-1961 • Alabang Town Center Tel. 842-1572
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center Tel. 631-1615 • SM City Davao Tel. (082) 297-2069

64 million ideas at no cost.



Can any gift top that?

Available in all National Bookstores, Shoe Mart, Goodwill, Toy Kingdom and other leading school and office supply outlets.



AMALGAMATED SPECIALTIES CORPORATION

PERSONA

Perfection and poise.

PREGNANCY SUPPORT BELT

ABDOMINAL BINDER

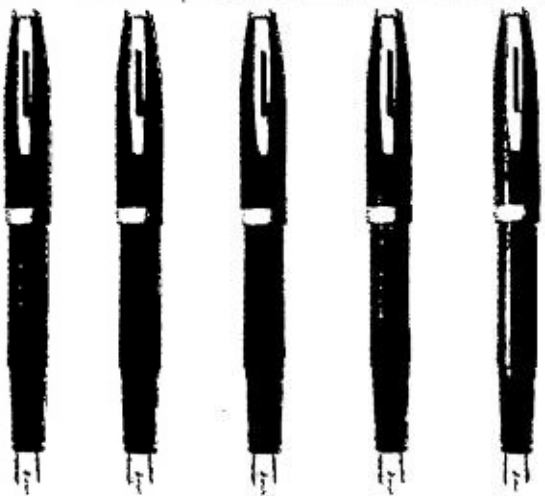
WAIST SHAPER

Get into your personal support aid and experience the difference!

Exclusively Distributed by:
medical center trading corporation
Pioneer St. Cor. Shaw Blvd. Pasig City
Tels. 631-1715, 631-9355, 637-9504 Fax (032) 631-7889
E-mail Address: medcen@info.com.ph

Available in all
mercury drug
Stores Nationwide

Pasig Branch Tel. 631-1715	Davao Branch Tel. (082) 222-4404	Cebu Branch Tel. (032) 254-2367
Iloilo Branch Tel. (033) 320-1413	Manila Branch Tel. 711-8374	Lipa Branch Tel. (043) 7572051



NEW FROM SHEAFFER'S

Add to your Christmas shopping Sheaffer's latest innovation, the Javelin Pen. Perfect for the yuppie who puts a premium to both style and comfort in working, this new writing instrument series fuses comfort with high-tech design and innovation. Available in both finished plastic and metal tubes, Javelin pens also come in three writing models including fountain pen, roller ball and ballpoint. Javelin Series' features include a slim and modern profile and satin chrome detailing with a soft rubber grip.

Portrait of a Hans Christian Andersen Award nominee

(From page C1)

write for a theater festival when I was in college. My writing for children was actually an accident. There was a workshop for potential writers of children's books in 1977 in Caliraya, Laguna. I did not have a job and I was invited to join. I was excited about meeting literary greats there and I wanted to see my byline. We stayed a week in that idyllic place and we were asked to write a story each. I wrote two stories. I do not even recall their titles anymore.

A writer is a writer no matter what your genre is because you deal with words. I am not as confident writing poetry or using English, but anything that requires the use of words, that I



VILLANUEVA: "Many doors have opened for children's literature."

can do.

On how he developed his craft:

When I started to conduct play-writing workshops, I was forced to study and understand the craft. For the writing of children's literature, it was also the writing workshops I would give and teaching a university course on "Writing for Children." It was my experience as head writer of "Batibot" for 15 years and working with its head, well-known innovative Bank Street-trained child educator Feny A. Bautista, which gave me a greater awareness of and concern for the developmental stages of children. Very few children's writers are aware of that. They just think that a children's story should be simple and have short sentences. It is really much more

than that. It trained me to do fast writing with a theme and with specific goals in mind. This was good discipline, because for instance, how many storylines can you write to teach children about the elbow? I had to learn to be precise and inject a sense of humor. There was also the review process of one's work, as part of the Children's Television Workshop technique when your work goes through a panel who have nothing to do with writing. The ego plays less and less of an important role and you learn to accept suggestions. They may point out details which you do not realize may adversely affect children. That was something new to me, but more than anything else, it excited me that my work, something I wrote for 15 minutes, was being taken seriously.

My experience with a group of poets also helped. Every Sunday, I would bring my poem to the poetry workshop and every Sunday, I would be rejected. One would say that the best thing about my poem was the title. Or, how about reducing this to a haiku? I like to hear out the opinions of others on my writing. I got used to this and no matter what others say about my writing, eventually I would be the one to make the decisions on how to improve it. One of these days, I will still surprise them with a collection of poetry.

The good thing about children's literature is that it is short. If it were long, it would just not seem right, like rice that's prematurely steamed. Usually, I force myself to come up with ideas. I have a mental outline. Even before I begin to write, I already have a clear concept of the character or the idea I want to convey. The system I have had to use in the television show has helped me. First, I must have an idea of the character. And to do that, I must give the character a name, a name that must be appropriate for this character. Next, what is the objective or the goal of the character? That would be the theme of the story—what do I want to say through the story or the character? And when I have finished saying that, I know that the story needs to end. The story is not plot or character-driven.

I am not a spontaneous writer. I just don't sit down and write. I am a planner and am very methodical, even if people don't see that and see me taking it easy. I am deliberate about the effect that I want my message, my language to have. I know how long I want the story to be and I won't stop writing until I finish those number of pages. I do a lot of research when I don't know the subject and although I get occasional flashes of inspiration, they do not sustain me.

If it is not storybook material but for a novel and there are dialogue and other details to consider, I write these in thick notebooks that I love. Like the novels I am planning for young readers, 8 years and above, 13 chapters with each chapter running to a page and a half, focused on Aris, a child named after Eris, my nephew. His story begins when he is 5 and the short books series will follow him in various stages of his childhood. I was able to finish the first book in a stretch of 12 hours straight. Through these books, I want children to remember their childhood.

This is a logical sequence to the books I have published, now longer works for older children, no longer storybooks because the children I used to write for have now grown up and we have no books for them.

A limitation of mine is that until today, I still write my stories longhand and have not learned to use the computer. My secretary has to type my manuscripts for me. Otherwise, I could produce more books.

On the state of Philippine children's literature today:

It is very challenging today. Many doors have opened for children's literature. There are more opportunities for discussions, for the setting of standards because of writers' groups, for the different schools of storytelling to popularize children's stories, and that is healthy. In the past, we encouraged everyone to write. But today, standards have to be set. We need more nonfiction titles compared to the many imaginative stories we have for preschool and beginning readers. There are book launchings, more publishers, more children's titles on different topics, all very encouraging signs.

On drawbacks to its development:

There is no systematic way to develop writers, maybe because writers are harder to manage or to organize. The artists and the illustrators seem to have progressed faster and have training. They have more support systems and are exposed to international magazines and yearbooks which show the best of current designs. The writers are exposed to commercial books, but not choice children's books.

On what makes a good children's story:

It must be easy to read. Diction is important

PORTRAIT/p.C3

The Philam Foundation invites you to bear witness to the plight of Mindanao.

CESAR MONTANO BAGONG BUWAN



JERIGHO ROSALES

CARIDAD SANCHEZ • AMY AUSTRIA • NONIE BUENCAMINO • RONNIE LAZARO
CARLO AQUINO • JHONG HILARIO • JIRO MANIO and JODI STA MARIA

directed by MARILOU DIAZ-ABAYA

Support the



ABC
Aid for Basilan Children
FUND

Send your donations to the Philam Foundation through the nearest business centers or branch offices of the Philam Group of Companies.



DOLBY
IN SELECTED THEATRES

STAR CINEMA
PRODUCTIONS INC.

BPS
PHILIPPINE BROADCASTING SYSTEMS
ENTERTAINMENT

Travel and culture writer is author of the month

SENIOR journalist and book editor Elizabeth V. Reyes is NBS author of the month for December. She has started up, written for and project-managed various large-format illustrated books, lifestyle magazines and travel books. She has also authored Philippine travel and culture books, edited Philippine maps and brochure guides, and corresponded for Southeast Asian regional magazines as well.

Educated in Manila and in the United States, Reyes first finished her Asian Studies at the University of the Philippines, and then took her BA in Fine Arts and Journalism at Syracuse University in New York. By then, she had various publishing jobs for such magazines as Reader's Digest, Sunburst Magazine, and the Filipino Heritage Encyclopedia to name a few. She became the editor in chief as well of the Signature Magazine and started up the Singapore Tatler, a social magazine in a nonsocial city-state. She relaunched and edited as well the Maleview Magazine, Singapore's first men's magazine on fashion and lifestyle, and later became the managing editor of Business Traveler Asia. She became a travel correspondent for various publications in Asia and Europe with her skill and interest in writing business and travel features. Eventually, she found herself

managing and editing photographic arts and travel books, which earned her the Pacific Area Travel Association Gold Award in 1991 for Times Travel Library: Manila.

Reyes pursued further studies in publishing at Stanford University, as well as graphic design, book design, information communication and creative writing at the University of California. Since then, she has authored, project-managed, and/or edited these highly illustrated books: "Tagaytay," "Philippines, A Journey Through the Archipelago," "Filipino Style," "Food of the Philippines," "Islander," "Tropical Living: Contemporary Dream Houses in the Philippines" and "Exciting Philippines: A Visual Journey."

Find Elizabeth Reyes' books at National Bookstore.



Portrait...

(From page C2)

because while it is written, it must sound good read out loud. My experience as a playwright has helped me because I am familiar with the oral quality of language, language which must be delivered live, making it easy for me to transcend the written form of anything. It must have a sense of humor and must tug at the heart, must be touching or have a tinge of melodrama. I try to have something like that in my stories. I like the musical quality of Ompong Remigio's writing. (Remigio wrote "Bru-hahaha, Bru-hihihi.")

Advice for other writers for children:

Learn more about children, don't take it for granted that you know children well. Know their developmental stages, their psychology. Writing from just personal experience is important but not enough. Writers must have loftier ambitions for children's literature beyond seeing their printed bylines. Don't just dream for yourself; dream big for the industry, for it to truly develop.

E-mail the author at nenisc@hotmail.com

We're open on Christmas & New Year's Day!

12.9 to 9 pm

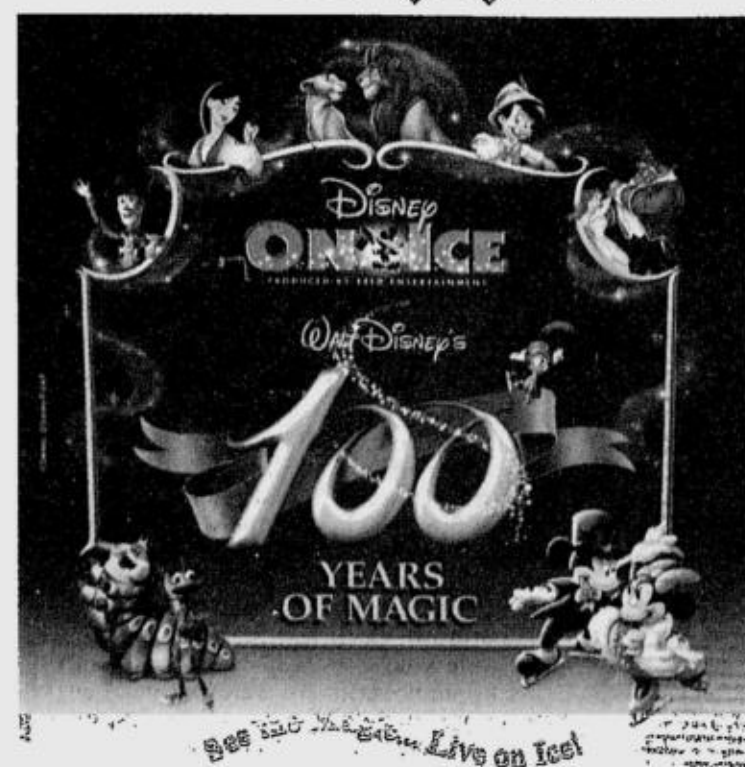
Dec. 25 & Jan. 1



SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP!

*SM Supercenter Sucat open until 10pm

Lactum 100% Celebrates



Experience The Most Magical Disney On Ice Ever!

SCHEDULE OF SHOWS

DEC. 22	Sat	Gala Premiere 1:00 pm	8:00 pm
DEC. 23	Sun	4:30 pm	
DEC. 24	Mon	(REST DAY)	
DEC. 25	Tue	1:00 pm 4:30 pm	8:00 pm
DEC. 26	Wed		8:00 pm
DEC. 27	Thu		8:00 pm
DEC. 28	Fri		8:00 pm
DEC. 29	Sat	1:00 pm 4:30 pm	8:00 pm
DEC. 30	Sun	1:00 pm 4:30 pm	8:00 pm
DEC. 31	Mon	(REST DAY)	
JAN. 1	Tue	1:00 pm 4:30 pm	8:00 pm
JAN. 2	Wed		8:00 pm
JAN. 3	Thu		8:00 pm
JAN. 4	Fri		8:00 pm
JAN. 5	Sat	1:00 pm 4:30 pm	8:00 pm
JAN. 6	Sun	1:00 pm 4:30 pm	8:00 pm

TICKET PRICES:
P950, 750, 550, 300, 80

AKI Credit Cards

SKYCABLE The Biggest Show on Air

TBC

McDonald's

ARANETA COLISEUM

SM TICKETNET

www.aranetacoliseum.com www.ticketnet.com.ph

MANILA BULLETIN

VICTORY LINER INC.

SM SUPERMALLS

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA!

Inaanak:

Janelle - 6 yrs. anything pink
Meg - 8 yrs. old
JP - 5 years → Harry Potter toy?
Joel - 2 yrs.
Kat-kat → ayaw my Barbie!!
Bambi - 10 yrs.
Jojo - 5 yrs. old
Mannette - 15 → (para naling law)
Wella - 6 yrs. old
Zoe - 5 yrs → dollhouse?
Anette - 4 yrs.
Sam - 7 yrs.
Karen - 12 → para din!
Robert - 7 yrs.

Other gifts

Thommy - bag? new blouse?
Papa Daniel
Rudy
Eric → DVD of Star Wars!
Manong Efren
Manong Mon →
Manong Mariq
*Buy wrapper
Menu for Noche Buena
- Cheese Plate
- Chicken Galantina?
- Lasagne
* Lechon (Remind Eric to pick it up!)
- Potatoes Salad
- Green salad → buy lettuce in organic market!
- punch
- sangria
- 1 bottle red wine
- orange juice (same amount as wine)
- 7-up
- chopped oranges and apples
- Just mix together!
- (don't forget to buy lots of ice)

reminder:

Leo's party!
Don't forget!
(call Cecilia & tweety!)

Don't forget! Buy ham early!!!

CHRISTMAS BECOMING A HEADACHE?

Enjoy the season, get fast relief with Mefenamic Acid Ponstan 250. Clinically proven to be easily absorbed by the body, so it kills pain in no time.

Mefenamic Acid

PONSTAN 250

Sakit ng ulo, siguradong talo.

Pfizer

Consumer Healthcare Division

Globe People



Dude, I know you can
autoload your Globe Prepaid
anywhere with your
BPI Express Cash Card...



...BUT THIS IS
RIDICULOUS!

HOW TO AUTOLOAD THRU BPI EXPRESS CASH CARD:

Accessible via menu
or keywords.
For menu, go to myGlobe and
click on "Categories" and then
"Money". Select "BPI
ExpressPay" and follow the easy
steps to reload.

For keywords, key in: rld bpi
<amount> <mobile number in
091XXXXXXX format> and send
to 2388. Then follow the prompts
on the screen.

Autoload when you want and where you want with your BPI EXPRESS CASH CARD. Just go to the Money category in your myGlobe menu or use keywords, then follow the easy steps and automatically get prepaid credits straight to your phone. No more scratching of call cards, no more dialing up to confirm, no more waiting.

And guess what? You can GET A FREE BPI EXPRESS CASH CARD WITH EVERY PURCHASE OF A GLOBEXPLORE SIM at selected GLOBE TELECOM BUSINESS CENTERS till January 31, 2002!

Plus from NOV. 26 - DEC. 31, 2001,
those who load via any of the BPI channels
GET 20% BONUS AIRTIME!

LIFE IS MADE

Globe
HANDYPHONE
Prepaid Plus

Incorrect, invalid or terminated prepaid numbers keyed-in will be charged accordingly.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1979, Series of 2001.

LIFESTYLE



PERIOD Filipiniana costumes by Salvador Bernal

A dazzler in a sedate museum

BY CONSTANTINO C. TEJERO

A SUMPTUOUS show is ongoing at Tall Gallery and The Catwalk of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. "Hugis at Hubog (Shape and Form): An Exhibit of Filipino Scenography" showcases the works by professional theater designers, craftsmen and technicians. Presented by the Philippine Association of Theater Designers, Architects and Technicians in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Metropolitan Museum, it runs until Jan. 5, 2002.

It is fairly common abroad, but seldom in this country for a show of costumes to be held in an institution like the Metropolitan Museum.

At Tall Gallery, the more glittery designs are displayed, maybe to grab the general museumgoers. At the entrance are two giant praying mantises in neon-green, special costumes made by the husband-and-wife team of Benny and Liz Batocoy for the children's musical "The Magic Staff," staged at the Meralco Theater in 1999. There are photographs and a scale model of the set and costumes designed by Salvador Bernal for this musical.

The centerpiece of the gallery is the elephant costume created by the Batocoy for "Rama at Sita," staged at the UP Theater in 1999. It is awesome in scale, and it moves, too. This hulk of kinetic art was carved out of urethane foam, its structure is of fiberglass, resin and rattan cane, its tusks are fiberglass and resin, and its eyes dental acrylic and clear cast resin.

A DAZZLER/p.D2

Shakey's

HOME OF THE ORIGINAL THIN CRUST PIZZA

FREE Solo Shakey's Special
for a minimum purchase of P300.

Dial-A-Pizza
533-8000
For Metro Manila only

Clip coupon and surrender before ordering. For dine-in, take-out and delivery, excluding bulk orders and parties. Offer valid from Dec. 1, 2001 to Jan. 31, 2002. Not valid in combination with other promos. Offer valid nationwide.

Now that's a pizza!!!

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT # 1047, SERIES OF 2001

GETAWAY
150 THE HOTELS

FOREST HILLS
Beach Hotel in Subic Bay
Tel: 421-2781 / 82 / 85

WHITE ROCK
Beach Hotel in Subic Bay
Tel: 421-2781 / 82 / 85

MAKATI OFF:
899-8756
895-1777 loc. 1715
(036) 288-6210 to 12
www.lesoleil.com.ph

GRAND NEW HOTEL IN BAGUIO!
City Travel Hotel
15 Ximal Road, Barmham Park Baguio City
Tel: 881-5329
881-5374
881-5369
E-mail: baguio@citytravel.com

MC MOUNTAIN HOME
Tagaytay

Riverview
RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER
CALAMBA LAGUNA www.riverview.com.ph

BAYVIEW PARK HOTEL MANILA
MANILA www.bayview.com.ph

Microtel Inn & Suites
FAX: 817-3942
SALES & RESERVATIONS:
813-7523/813-8553
CELL #: 0917-888-1-800
Website: www.microtelinn.com
www.microtelph.com

EXECUTIVE PLAZA HOTEL
1630 A. MARINI, MALATE, MNL.
www.executiveplazahotel.com.ph

Las Palmas
1616 A. MARINI ST., MALATE, MNL.
www.laspalmashotel.com.ph

PALM PLAZA HOTEL
1518 B. MARINI ST., MALATE, MNL.
www.palmplazahotel.com.ph

KABABAYAN RATE SPECIAL
P 1,555 ++
526-1555 / 1-800-1888-5555
corp_sales@bayview.com.ph

• EAGLE RIDGE, CAVITE, GENTRIAS
Tel. No. (046) 509-3333
CELL #: 0917-4138140

• ST. THOMAS, BATAANG, LITINA, MINDORO
Tel. No. (043) 4056957
CELL #: 0917-8339239

• LUISITA, TARIAC, PLAZA LUISITA MAIL
Tel. No. (045) 9851770
CELL #: 0917-8170856

• DR. MINDORO, FILIPINA, CALAPANG CITY
Tel. No. (043) 2862824
CELL #: 0917-6620265

• PAY ONLY 25% FROM THE TARIFF RATES
PRESENT UPON CHECK IN
THIS WILL SERVE AS COUPON
TEL: 523-1000/525-8969
FAX: 525-9088/525-8979

• PAY ONLY 25% FROM THE TARIFF RATES
PRESENT UPON CHECK IN
THIS WILL SERVE AS COUPON
TEL: 521-1000/524-5612
FAX: 522-1099/523-6917

• PAY ONLY 25% FROM THE TARIFF RATES
PRESENT UPON CHECK IN
THIS WILL SERVE AS COUPON
TEL: 522-1000/524-7127
FAX: 525-8013/524-5384

TODAY'S SPECIAL MEALS
Call 0912-8988

Home for the Holidays

RAFFLE PROMO!

GET A CHANCE TO WIN A HOUSE AND LOT!

Make your wishes come true this Holiday season when Festival Supermall gives a chance to win your dream home at Fairway View in Cavite!

Shop or dine at participating outlets at Festival Supermall and get raffle coupons!

* Please see posters and leaflets for details.

HURRY! Promo runs from Nov. 15, 2001 to Feb. 15, 2002

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-0353, Series of 2001

FILINVEST LAND INCORPORATED

Call Customer Service at 8503514

www.festivalsupermall.com

FOSSIL

Available at all Fossil Shops and Authorized Fossil Watch Dealers

A dazzler in a sedate museum

(From page D1)

Dizzying palette

Even more awesome, at the rear of the gallery, is a full set piece from "The Little Mermaid," the Trumpets production of the musical, with stage design by Mio Infante and costume design by Liz Batocoy and Edgar San Diego. That dim part of the museum is lighted up by a dizzying palette of fuchsia, red, silver, orange, yellow, violet, scarlet.

Why, there is a whole school of fish here, and jellyfish, and lobsters, flounders and swordfish—massive pieces of very light material designed by premier prosthetics specialist Benny Batocoy.

The exhibit has a section called "Tanghal: Towards a Filipino Stage Design." Here, on the walls, or crisscrossing the hall, surrounding the mannequins, are scale models of sets, sketches



PATDAT logo

of costumes, photographs of opulent stage productions: "Lysistrata," "Salome," "El Filibusterismo," "Noli Me Tangere"; a series of photos of Rafael del Casal's set for "Larawan" side by side with Salvador Bernal's set for "Larawan: The Musical" (the last production of Rolando Tinio); photos of Bernal's set and sketches of his costumes for "Lapu-lapu."

On the more show-bizzy side are Eric Pineda's silver costume for Janno Gibbs during the millennium celebration; photos of a glittery Apo show; photos of Douglas Nierras' Powerdance shows, including "Metanoia," designed by the Batocoy. And there's a series of stills from the movie "Death Row" showcasing Monino Duque's award-winning production design.

Opulent form

On The Catwalk, just above the gallery, one is welcomed by Bernal's costume for the Queen of the Night in "The Magic Flute," staged at Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo in 1982. The royal headdress is a cascade of blue crystals, the black gown is embellished with silver beads, and the poison-green sleeves show beneath the sheer black fabric.

In front of it is Pineda's stylized Filipino costume for Grace Nono for the 1998 Awit Awards, of raffia, abaca, burlap, coconut shell and tambourines, in tobacco-brown, old rose and khaki. Very creative, indeed, but before the Queen of the Night, the mannequin wearing it, hunched on a bench, looks like a pauper.

"Tibag," staged at Tanghalang Pilipino in 1999, with stage and costume designs by Bernal, is represented by what look like ecclesiastical frocks opulent in form and eye-grabbing with their strong solid colors of red, violet, blue, gold, silver, and astounding headdresses.

The traditional Filipino theatrical form Bernal

created for "Orosman at Zafira," staged at Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino in 1993, although shown only in photos, astonishes still, with its palette of orange, red, gold, black, and particularly that shieldlike, metallic-looking front detail of the costumes.

Here also is a representative piece from "La Traviata," staged by Tinio at Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo, with stage design by National Artist Leandro Locsin and costume design by Pineda. One can't help but feel reverential as one gazes up at that gold crown with faux pearl and crystal embellishments, the gold mask trimmed with silver beads, the scapular of red velvet embellished with gold, pearls and crystals, the sumptuous black lace dress and veil—and this was supposed to be worn by a tramp?

Rich detailing

And here are the punk-baroque glad rags for "Luna: An Aswang Romance," predominantly black and red, brown and gray, old rose, fuchsia, looking like tatters from a film of Kurosawa. Presented last year at Aguinaldo Theater, the show was celebrated primarily for the costume designs of Steve de Leon, Ann Wizer (headdress), Gigi Escalante, Tony Cajucom, with special designs of Gabriel Barredo and Bernal. Stage design is by Manuel Chaves.

Again there are scale models of sets, more numerous than in the gallery downstairs. Many are quite impressive, but they don't have labels. We recognize only the ones for "King Lear" and "Cavalleria Rusticana."

Several walls are mounted with photos and renditions in gouache, pastel, watercolor, acrylic, color pencil and marker on black mounting boards, of Gino Gonzales' stage and costume designs for "Marat/Sade," "The Visit," "Measure for Measure," "Piglas," "Mahagonny," "Scapino."

Despite his usually rich detailing, Gonzales can be austere, even severe, as in his stage design for "Dialogue of the Carmelites," done in a monochrome of brown, black and white, composed of rigid lines, boxlike props, rectangular shapes.

Creative use

A special section is devoted to 1998 National Artist for Theater and Literature Rolando Tinio, playwright, poet, critic, film scriptwriter, stage director, actor, scenographer, costume and properties designer, educator. He was the artistic director of Teatro Pilipino, the resident theater company of the CCP, which focused on the production of classic theater in Filipino.

Displayed are invaluable archival materials, black-and-white photos of Tinio's celebrated productions: "The Twins" (1978), "The Importance of Being Earnest" (1978), "Twelfth Night" (1979),



"ASWANG" costume by Gilda Cordero-Fernando

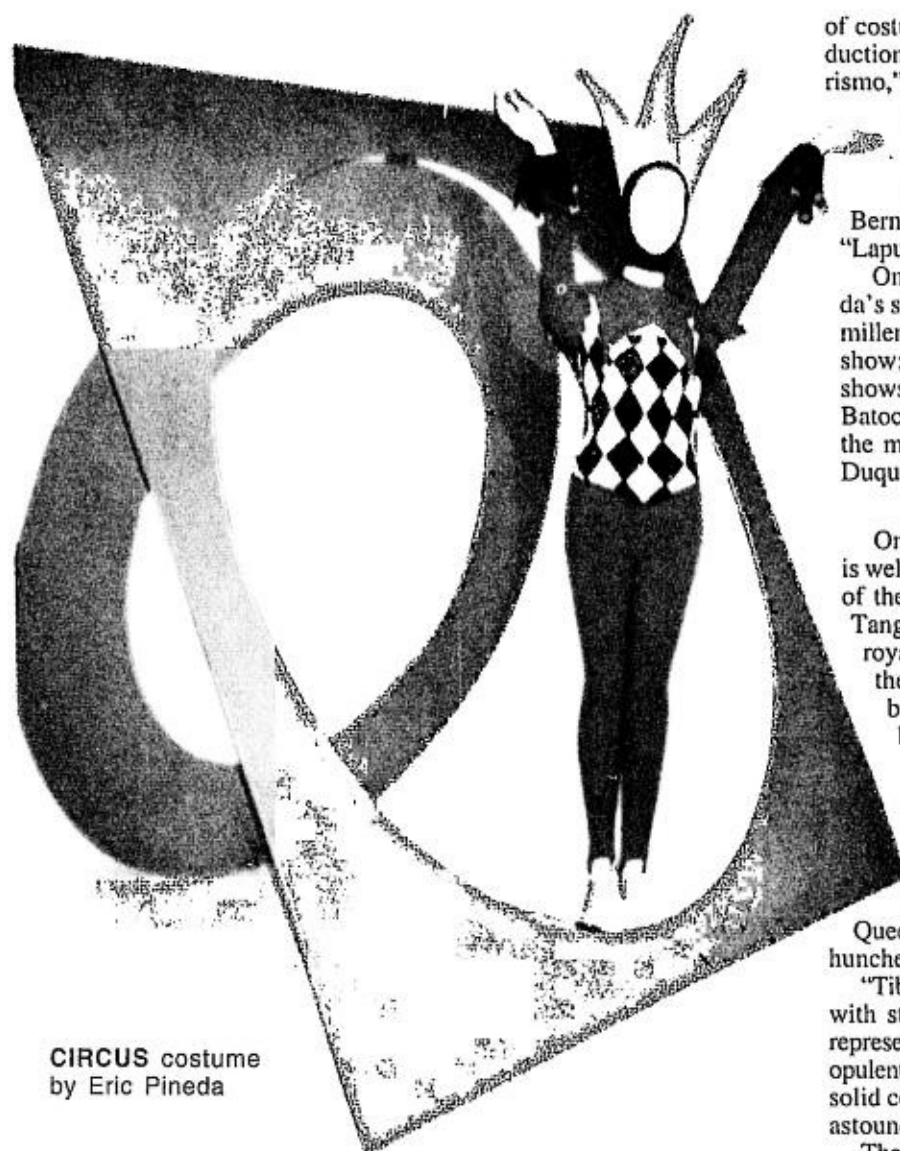
"Arms and the Man" (1980). One setback is that Teddy Hilado's lighting design can hardly be appreciated from these photos.

On another wall, however, are Rolie Perez's color photos of Tinio's other productions: "Romeo at Julieta" (1978), "Hedda Gabler" (1980), "Pagdalaw ng Senyora" (1980), "Caligula" (1981), "The Barber of Seville" (1982), "Tiyo Vanya" (1982), "Kawawang Marat" (1982), "Medea" (1988).

A note on the wall precisely states the intelligence, energy and creativity of the man, which could as well summarize the genius of the Filipino theater artist in this exhibit:

"Tinio's designs bordered on the minimal, with sparse embellishments and details so as not to obstruct the attention of the audience from the spoken word. His costume designs detailed the conventions of period fashion while making creative use of available fabrics. He had a hands-on participation in the execution of his costume and set designs. He was one of the few designers who could craft period footwear and his own period jewelry for the stage."

If that's not genius, what is?



CIRCUS costume by Eric Pineda

This space was provided by Philippine Daily Inquirer, a Corporate Partner of WWF-Philippines.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER



FISH RALLY. A massive protest action is being held in Philippine waters against the harm caused by illegal and destructive fishing practices. The organisers need your support. Donate to WWF now by calling 433 3222.

RN67794



"HANDA," watercolor, 22½" x 30"

Once more 'calado,' with feeling

By GINO DORMIENDO
Contributor

ALL her long and productive artistic life, the subject of the *calado* has been a constant, a personal tradition that has resonated in her oeuvre. The grand dame and her *calado* have become inseparable entities, her magisterial strokes merging into the high-borne delicacy of this eloquent reminder of our glorious past, a metaphor of our fragility as a people.

In her latest exhibition, which, by the way, coincided with her 72nd birthday, titled "Pamana ni Inay" (Metropolitan Gallery, Art Walk, SM Megamall), Araceli Limcaco-Dans offers a suite of *calado* paintings in watercolor, itself a delicate medium to handle, combining her signature subject with flowers, shells, driftwood and other scrupulous details with all their complementary or contrasting effects. By portraying real flowers and touches of greenery in their leaves with the omnipresent lace embroidery, the artist has transmuted her subject into rich and radiant distillations of color.

Obsessive

The artist has, to be sure, seemingly perfected the depiction of the *calado* through the years, an obsessive pursuit of this finely embroidered, delicately creamy *jusi* or *piña* cloth with its netlike grid design at the edges. Here, as in the past, she makes the *calado* throb with life and movement, as in "Haranang Puti," with the *calado* performing a curtsy to the real stars of the show, a pair of shimmering white *rosals* that seems to gracefully jump out into infinite space.

In another painting, "Ginto sa Hardin," Dans has a pair of yellow hibiscus splattered on the floor, with the mystical *calado* around it, casting their shimmering presence in a dreamlike reflection.

Later, in "Handa," she contrasts the hues of red and white roses on top of an unfurled *calado* amid the silverware astutely cropped in order to give way to the blooms, their evanescent image quietly reflected in the mirror-like presence of their immediate surroundings.

No sign of flowers can, however, be found in "Cariñosa," where a company of creased drying leaves accentuates the anxious presence of creased *calado*, the leaves' vein-like patterns projecting a mood of gloomy presence as an autumnal ghost.

From still lifes of flower arrangements indoors, Dans moves to the world of the surrounding garden, of which her summer sanctuary in the City of Pines amply provides. In "Simoy ng Baguio," Dans paints a serene setting of a bunch of outside pink *milyores*, their dainty minuscule petals forming a stark contrast to the rugged patches of a pine tree trunk, with the edges of a *calado* hanging precariously from the tree.

Sea life

As if abandoning for once her favorite subject, though still preserving ramparts of the *ca-*

lado, she navigates the uneasy calm of the remnants of sea life in "Alay": a motley arrangement of driftwood, seashells strewn on the surface of a table, with the nautilus on center stage, dominating the scene with its delicate purplish hues, and once again the lower portion of the painting serving as a mirror to reflect the underwater realm.

In this exhibit, with proceeds earmarked for the Bridges Foundation for Special Children, Limcaco-Dans has proven that she is indeed a master watercolorist at work, matching the rigorous demands of the medium with unbridled mastery. True to her artistic calling, she has achieved the unique portrayal of a subject of commonality, seducing the imagination and transforming these emblems of ornamentation into works of endearing appeal.

As the poet William once puts it: "To see a world in a grain of sand/And a heaven in a wild flower..."



"ALAY," watercolor, 22½" x 30"

Cut this ad & get 5% discount

Q.C. SCIENCE
MANILA SCIENCE
ENTRANCE REVIEW

OVER 100 REVIEWEES PASSED

29 December - 6 January
Saturdays & Sundays
Enroll only in the best review center!

TUTORLINK
#85 Masikap Ext., Central Dist, Q.C.
(at the back of Q.C. Hall)
☎ 435-0010

REVIEWER BOOK ALSO AVAILABLE
AT NATIONAL BOOKSTORES

Nature's Answer To Diabetes

Amargozin
AMPALAYA CAPSULE 500 mg

Food Supplement for DIABETICS

If you're one of the millions of Filipinos suffering from diabetes, let nature answer your needs. One way to do this is with the help of Amargozin capsules.

Amargozin assists in managing blood sugar levels. Made only from the Makiling variety ampalaya, which is nurtured in organic and environment-friendly farms. It is processed in a BFAD-licensed pharmaceutical facility, which has well passed the Current Good Manufacturing Practice (CGMP) standards.

Marketed by **ALTERMED CORPORATION** (Punjab Laboratory, Inc.)
Manufactured by **ALTERMED CORPORATION**

BFAD FR No. 25611

Available at all **mercury drug stores** and other leading drugstores nationwide.

Marketed by **ALTERMED CORPORATION** Tel No. (632) 411-9907 • 925-8468 • 920-1911

Most AFFORDABLE, HIGH QUALITY!

ENOUGH enough enough.

LAGUNDI ASCOF Forte
Cough Remedy/Anti asthma

ASCOF FORTE HAS EVERYTHING YOU WANT IN A COUGH AND ASTHMA MEDICINE:

NATURAL HEALING - Ascov Forte is made purely from Lagundi leaves: nature's answer to cough and asthma. Enjoy this hero's healing properties in a convenient tablet form!

SAFE TO USE - Because it's all-natural, Ascov does not have the major side effects caused by other cough and asthma medicines. So there's no need to worry about drowsiness and tremors!

SCIENTIFICALLY RESEARCHED AND PROVEN - A product of over 20 years of research conducted by the National Integrated Research Program on Medicinal Plants (NIRPROMP), Ascov's efficacy is clinically proven. Plus, it is licensed by PCHRD of the Department of Science and Technology.

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED - Ascov Forte has received the silver medal from the prestigious 25th International Exhibition of Inventions, New Techniques and Products in Geneva, Switzerland and the Golden Shell Awards.

Plus, it's very affordable too!

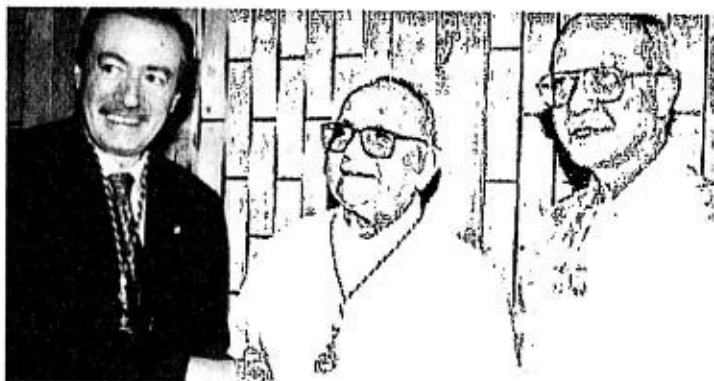
Available in leading drugstores nationwide. For more inquiries, call 411-9907 • 920-1911 • 925-8468



"SIMOY ng Baguio," watercolor, 30" x 22"



FR. Pedro Galendi, Ambassador Julio Cardenas of Peru and Don Francesco Delgado



JOSE Rodriguez congratulates new Spanish Academy inductee Fr. Miguel Bernad, S.J., as Fr. Bienvenido Niebres, S.J., looks on.



LINDA Panlilio and Carmen Guererro Nakpil



WITH GEORGE Sy

Jaime Laya, Ambeth Ocampo, Fr. Bernad toast letters



HISTORIANS BOTH. Fr. Lucio Gultierrez, O.P. of UST, and Ambeth Ocampo



WITH XAVIER Loinaz, Victor Macalincag and Santiago Dumlaog

DECEMBER must be the month of the book launches. In case you're in a bind looking for a gift to give someone who has everything and isn't illiterate, there's Ambeth Ocampo's "Meaning and History," a volume that gathers his Rizal lectures, which was launched at Heritage Library last week. Come to think of it, there's a whole series of Ambeth's lectures that you could select from.

After Ambeth came Dr. Jaime Laya's "Letras y Figuras."

Now that he's a published author, Laya jestingly said he could be described as "an artist." I think somebody—a politician—had wanted to know what Dr. Laya's claim to fame was that he should be chair of a cultural agency. Dr. Laya has since resigned, and Rio the poet is also gone from the agency, sad to say, but at least the politician is also out.

At the launch, also at Filipinas Heritage, it looked like the whole of the NCCA—past and present—was there, including the new executive director Fina Yanson. There was Gani Cruz and Chita and Susan and Adorable. Also Jess and Tessa and Emily and the faithful Bernad, not to forget Cora since she designed the book. Linda Panlilio prepared a terrific buffet with the sweetest *suya* and wonderful cheese. If this keeps up I won't have to go to the market anymore. I can eat out every day!

He did not have exactly a book launch (although he had written many), but Fr. Miguel Bernad, S.J., was inducted to the Academia Filipina de la Lengua Española at Ateneo in Rockwell by Jose Rodriguez, president of the Academia. This is the second Jesuit to be a member; the other, as you know, is Fr. Jose Arcilla. So when will the Academia give the award to the Dominicans?

And now while we are still in a good humor not having checked our diminishing bank accounts, let me wish you all the peace and love of Christmas for the coming year.

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga



DR. Jaime Laya with Alexandra, Amelia and Silvina Laya, Amarelle and Walter Brown



DR. Mita Pardo de Tavera and Jose Rodriguez



AMBASSADOR Bauman, Helen Ong and Letty Syquia



WITH DR. Augusto Camara, Dr. Avelino Aventura and Dr. Natividad



AT ELEUTERIO Pascual-hosted dinner. Fernando Zobel, Kim Camacho, Teyet Pascual, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Joselito Campos, Ino Manalo



ROSIE Go, Kim Camacho, Henry Howard-Sneyd and Dr. Eleuterio "Teyet" Pascual



PAUL Pederson, James Go



BRET O'Connor, Mok Kim Chuan



JAIME and Fernando Zobel



HENRY Howard-Sneyd, Sotheby's man in Asia, with Dr. Pascual



PEDRO and Gina Roxas



MIKEY and Lizette Cojuangco

See you at Sotheby's-Manila

A REAFFIRMATION of the resilience of the Philippine art scene is the decision of the venerable London auction house Sotheby's to put up a Manila office. The establishment of the house had been Manila's best-kept secret until the inauguration recently, graced by no less than Henry Howard-Sneyd, managing director of Sotheby's China and Southeast Asia. The secret started to seep through public attention when Dr. Eleuterio Pascual, the respected art collector, gathered some of Manila's leading names at his apartment filled with the art works of old and modern Filipino masters as well as priceless antiques.

Gracing the dinner was Maria Clara "Kim" Acuña Camacho, who was soon to be named as Sotheby's representative in the Philippines.

According to Howard-Sneyd, "Sotheby's is the first international auction house to appoint a representative in the Philippines and does so in response to the large potential we see in the market there. As a company, we have pioneered expansion of the fine art auction business in Asia since holding the first sale by a foreign auction house in Hong Kong in 1973."

Camacho joins Sotheby's with almost 20 years of business experience behind her. She has worked with



KITKAT Zobel, Jose Isidro Camacho, Kim Camacho, Teyet Pascual, Ino Manalo, Rosie Go, Henry Howard-Sneyd, Santiago Pilapil, Fernando Zobel and Joselito Campos Jr.

Seagram's in New York and the National Development Co. and Rockwell Land Corp. in Manila. She also owned and managed a manufacturing and exporting company for 11 years. She was the first Filipino graduate of Radcliffe College, Harvard University where she finished her undergraduate degree in economics. She also has an MBA from Harvard Business School. She is married to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho, and the couple have six children.

Camacho's appointment represents the latest strategic move in the company's ongoing plans to steadily expand its auction business in Southeast Asia, and recognizes the increased participation of Filipino clients in overseas auctions over the years.



JOEY and Vicky Cuisia

Sotheby's prime objective in the Philippines is to assist more effectively such participation at international auctions.

"Sotheby's recognizes the tremendous potential of Filipino collectors in our auctions. In order to better serve this active base of clients, permanent representation in the Philippines is essential. I have no doubt that Kim will be an invaluable addition to Sotheby's team in Asia and that her extraordinary background and intimate knowledge of the Filipino society will help enhance our profile in the local community," Howard-Sneyd added.

Sotheby's network in Asia includes offices in Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, People's Republic of China, Japan, Malaysia and Thailand.



FROM LEFT, Henry Howard-Sneyd, Kim Camacho, Margarita Delgado, Grace Tan Caktlong, Lucille Villanueva, Trish Villanueva, Senator Manny Villar, Secretary Lito Camacho, Ed Delgado and Bert Villanueva

Ronald Ventura at SM Megamall Art Center

FOR ARTIST Ronald Ventura, doors are metaphorical symbols that hold the key to our whole being. This is what he has been exploring for some time now and his latest show, "Doors," literally and figuratively offer a glimpse of his past, present and future. They are on view at the Big & Small Art Co. and at the SM Megamall Art Center.

VISUAL ARTS

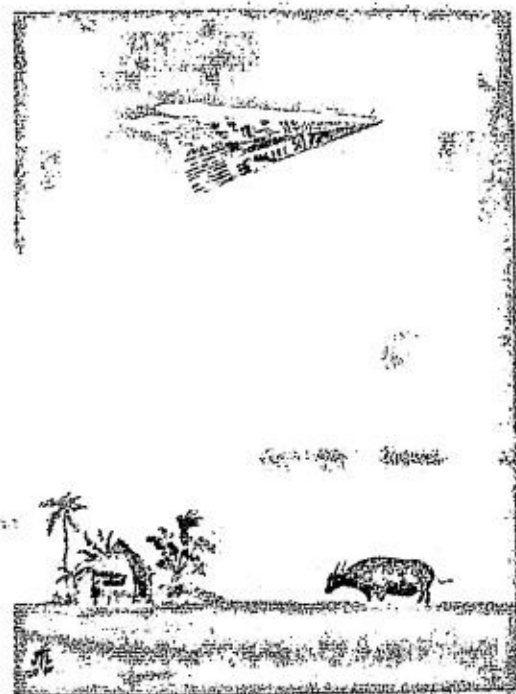
"Open doors are temporary gateways between the past and present," the artist says. "Closing doors signify endings and beginnings, and capture our last word, our last emotion as we trade one state of being for another."

Ventura majored in painting at the University of Santo Tomas, where he now teaches at the College of Fine Arts and Design. He was a finalist at the 2000 Philippine Art Awards, a winner at the Yearbook 2000 Philippine Association of Printmakers Print Competition and honorable mention at the 2000 Metrobank Foundation National Painting Competition. In 1999, he was a finalist at the Taiwan International Biennial Print and Drawing Competition and Juror's Choice winner at the Winsor and Newton Painting Competition.

Call 373-3365 or (0917) 815-5488.

GROUP SHOW AT IVYDELL. The Gallery Ivydell (Gallery Building, Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City) showcases "Our Lady in Art," a group exhibit with the Mother and Child as theme, interpreted by leading artists using oil, watercolor, pastel, acrylic and mixed media. The exhibit is on display until Dec. 31. The exhibit will be shown in various churches all over the country. All the paintings are for sale for the benefit of the street children who had attended the free art work

RONALD/p.D7



"LAKBAY" by Mark Justiniani at Starbucks-Ayala Avenue



"MURAL Study 2," watercolor on paper, is part of George Raspado's 5th solo exhibit, "Forte," at Galeria de Las Islas (3/F Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila). Exhibit runs until Jan. 10. Call 527-2113.



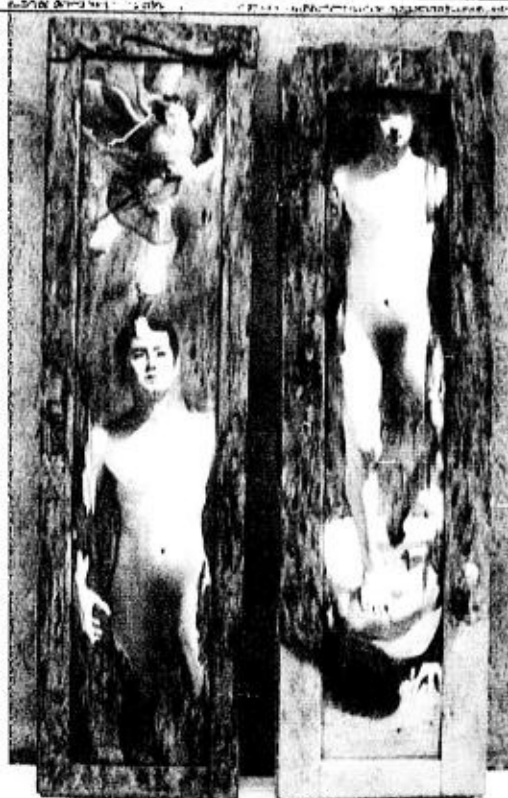
"PAGLALAKBAY (Eteap)," a handcarved jackfruit wood by Dhe Aseoche, is part of Galeria de Las Islas' special collection on display-sale this Christmas. The wall-mounted sculpture depicts the Filipino "holy family" in journey. Aseoche is one of the well-known sculptors of Paete, Laguna. Call 527-2113.



LABOR Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, gallery owner Ivydell Sison and Malacang social secretary Bettina Aboltiz during the opening of "Our Lady in Art," a group exhibit of artists tackling the Mother and Child theme at the Gallery Ivydell, Makati.



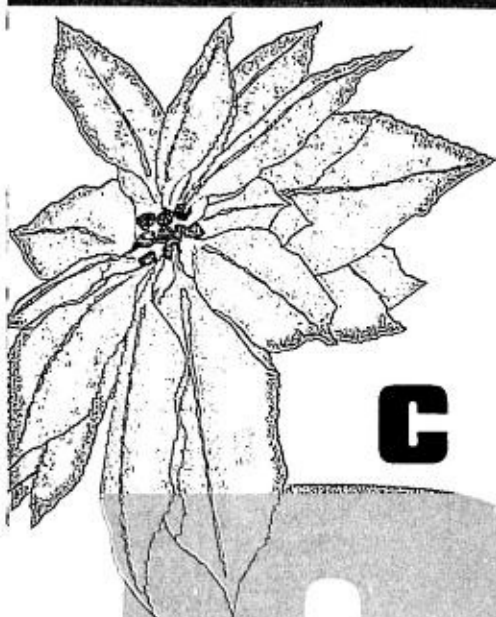
RONALD Ventura



"DOORS" by Ronald Ventura

**UNITED COLOURS OF
CAT GAS LPG**
With Seven Excellent Colors to Choose From!
DELIVERS!
920-7777
FREE SWAP (CYLINDER AND REGULATOR)
FREE DELIVERY • FREE INSTALLATION
FREE SERVICE • EXACT WEIGHT GUARANTEED
OR TEXT THESE NUMBERS: SMART 0918-9127777 GLOBE 0917-8481777

ARANETA CENTER



YEAR-END

CENTERWIDE

SALE

DECEMBER 26 - 31, 2001

Store Hours: Dec. 26-30 10 am-9 pm / Dec. 31 9 am-7 pm

up to

50% OFF
on selected items

Visit our website at www.aranetacenter.net

ali mall

FARMERS PLAZA

PISTA CARNIVAL

ARANETA COLISEUM

Farmers
MARKET

SM

Rustan

PIZZA HUT

FARMERS
GARDEN

National
Book Store

COD
ARANETA CENTER

isetann

F
FARMERS

MAHINA
SHOE EXPO

ARANETA CENTER

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A3 - 828 SERIES OF 2001

See the Magic... Live on Ice!



**HEY KIDS, CELEBRATE THE MAGIC!
WIN FREE MICKEY SOUVENIR HATS!**

Performs on
Dec. 22, 2001
- Jan. 6, 2002

TICKETNET
CALL 911-5555

www.ticketnet.cqm.ph



**Thousands
of Mickey souvenir hats
FREE!**

Yup! Customers at Ali Mall and Farmers Plaza
also automatically get
a FREE Mickey Souvenir Hat
for every P300 minimum single purchase.

BY JESS ARPERA



BY P.M. JUNIOR



BY EDGAR DIONELA

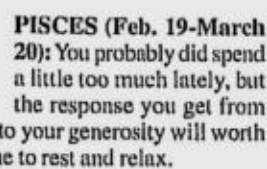
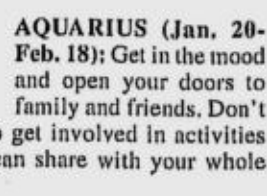
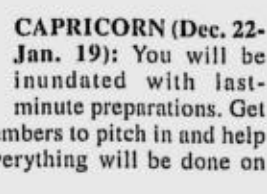
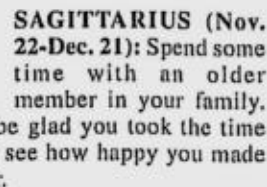
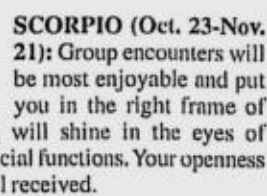
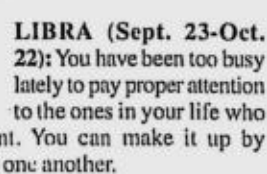
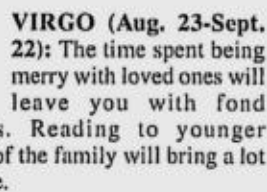
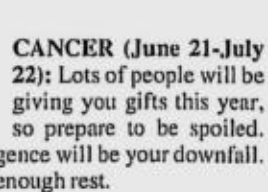
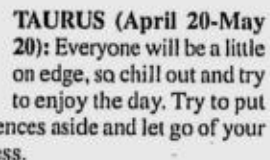
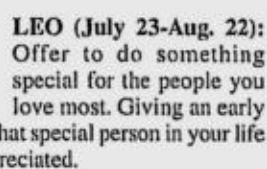
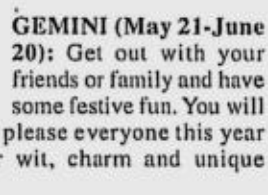


BY JOHN PAUL CUISON



BY EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on the one thing that you know you do well and strive to be the very best. You are talented but you do lack the discipline to finish what you start so organization will be necessary. You must have enough confidence in yourself to go it alone. Your numbers are 5, 11, 18, 23, 41, 44



TMSpuzzles@aol.com

TMSpuzzles@aol.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15						16	
17				18							19	
20				1					2			
			23	24				25				
26	27	28					29	30				
31					32	33					34	35
36				37	38						39	
40				41					42	43		
			44					45				
46	47						48	49				
50					51	52				53	54	55
57					56					58		
60					59				62			
63					64					65		

By Robert H. Wolfe 11/8/01

By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

P	L	A	I	D		A	B	B	E		F	L	A	P
A	S	I	D	E		R	U	I	N		R	A	M	A
C	A	R	O	L		G	I	L	A		O	P	E	N
S	T	Y	L	E		R	U	L	E		C	O	M	I
					T	I	E	D		T	R	E	N	D
B	O	R	N	E	O		E	L	S	A				
O	L	I	O		T	E	R	I		L	E	T	G	O
P	L	A	T	E		S	T	A	N	D	S	T	E	A
S	A	L	E	P		A	L	E	E		N	A	T	O
					S	T	I	L	O		B	E	A	K
E	N	A	M	O		R		N	O	I	R			
P	A	G	E		M	A	D	E	S	T	R	E	T	C
C	O	A	L		C	A	R	S		O	M	A	H	A
O	M	I	T		E	T	U	I		R	I	C	E	R
T	I	N	S		R	E	N	E		S	T	O	R	E

©2001 Trivium Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved.

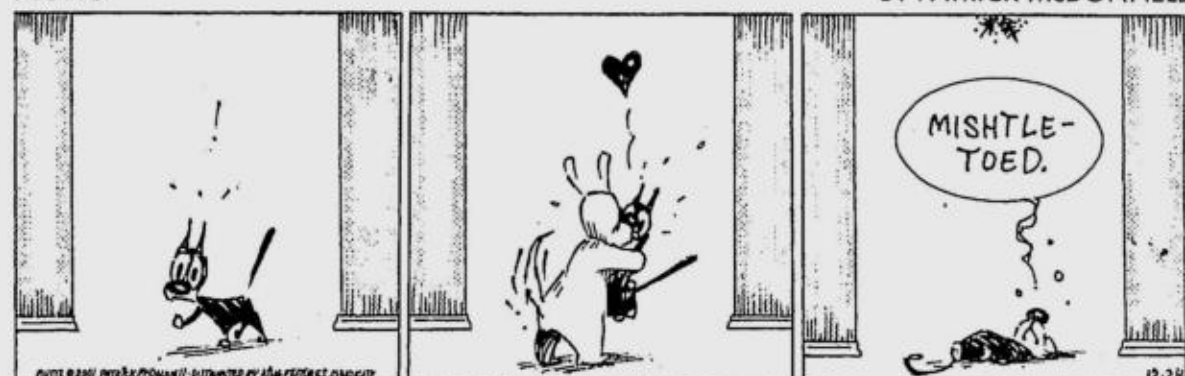
11/01/01

41 Cost per unit	52 Formerly, formerly
43 Private school	54 Stratford's river
45 Suspend	55 Russo of "Rocky and Bullwinkle"
46 Exchange	56 Work units
47 Choreographer Alvin	58 Go out with
48 Thorny patch	59 Passing craze
49 Like Chicago?	
51 Extend across	

BY DANIEL SHELTON



BY PATRICK McDONNELL



BY MANIX

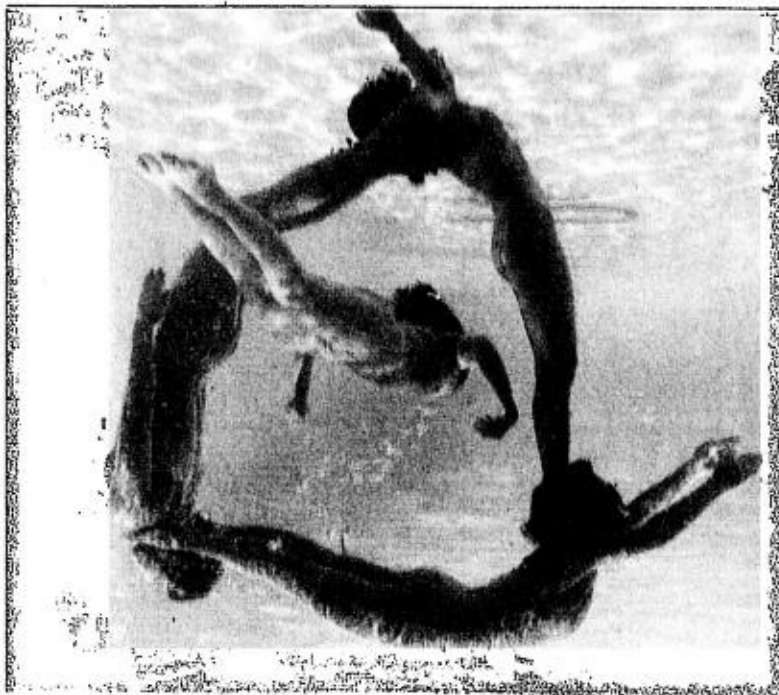


BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

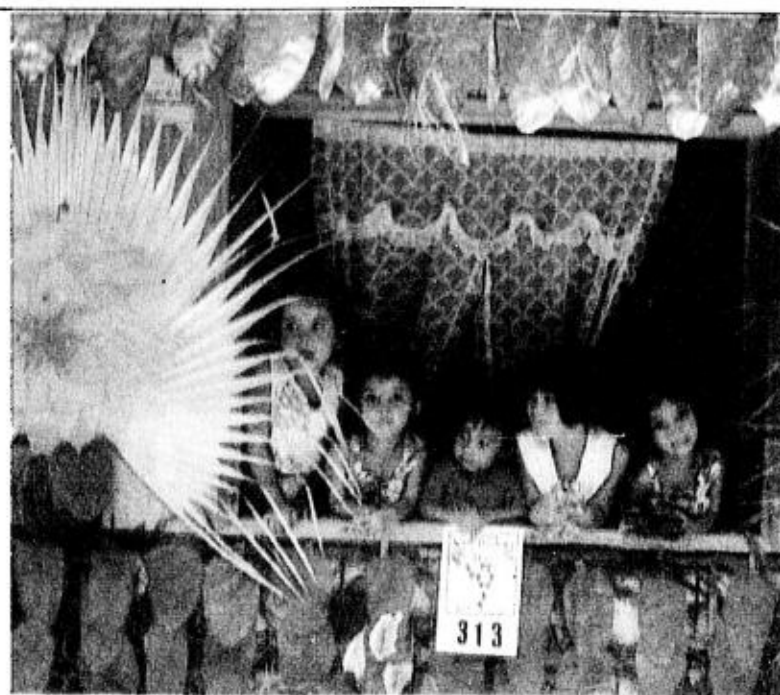


BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING

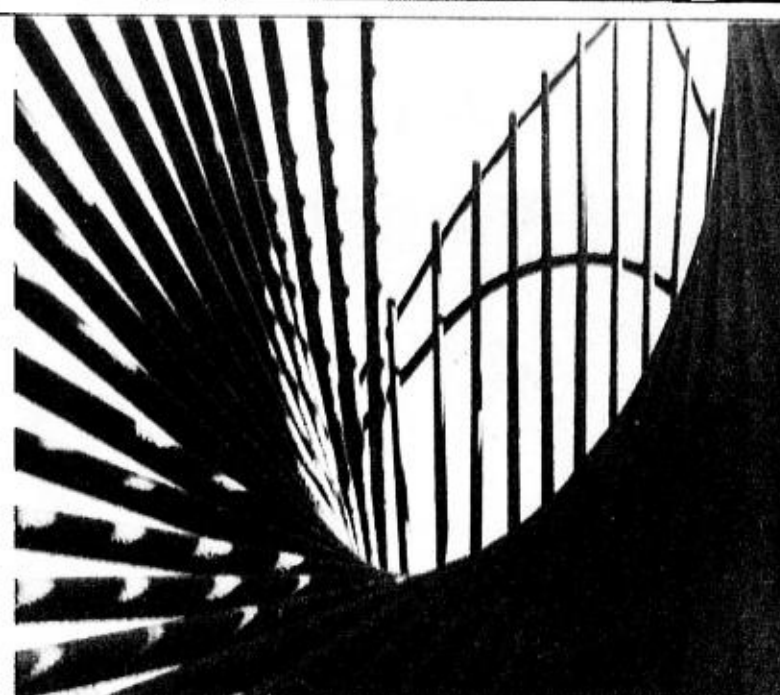




HUMAN interest photo by Dennis Alcaraz



HUMAN interest photo by Nilo Alterado



CREATIVE/FINE arts by Grig Montegrande

INQUIRER men and women dabble in photography

IN CELEBRATION of the 16th anniversary of the INQUIRER, Employees Services and Development Center of the PDI held the second annual INQUIRER Photo Club exhibit recently at the lobby of the PDI building in Makati City.

This year's theme was "Images" with focus on human interest, scenic/travel, nature, creative/fine arts, still life and portraiture. Members of the board of judges were Edwin Bacasmas, award-winning news photographer; Rey Vivo, artist/photographer of Mr. & Ms Magazine; and Dr. Amado Castro, former president of the Camera club of the Phils.

Out of the 136 photo entries the board of judges selected only 38 photos qualified for the exhibit. Out of the 38, they selected the top 16 photographs to coincide with the 16th anniversary celebration of the INQUIRER.



SCENIC/TRAVEL photo by Gerry Jano

Ronald Ventura

(From page D5)

shops given by the Gallery Ivydell artists. All the art works are available at 20-50 percent discounts.

JUSTINIANI AT STARBUCKS. Mark Justiniani exhibits new works at the Starbucks Café (6750, Ayala Avenue, Makati City) from Jan. 11-31. Dubbed "Daong (Arrival)," the exhibit features works that exploits coffee's staining effects. The subjects range from everyday vignettes to images of faith. Call (0917) 534-1378.

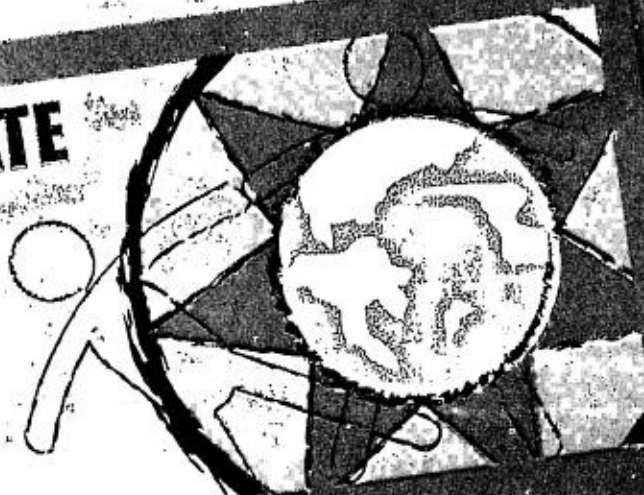
NUESTRO AT STARBUCKS. Starbucks Coffee and the Drawing Room present "Calinness," an exhibit of watercolor paintings by Mindoro-based artist, Bobby A. Nuestro, at Starbucks Café (G/F 6750, Ayala Avenue, Makati City). The exhibit runs until Jan. 6. Nuestro's works depict serene landscape forms with acrylic stripes, created by a spontaneous painting process using wet on wet technique, limited color scheme and freedom of composition.

SHOWS AT GSIS MUSEUM. The GSIS Museum of Art presents its permanent collection of works by National Artists Jose Abueva, Botong Francisco, Fernando Amorsolo, Vicente Manansala, H.R. Ocampo and a dozen contemporary Filipino artists. Also on show are old prints from the collection of former GSIS president and general manager Federico Pascual. Call 551-1301.

ART WORKSHOP. Faber-Castell will start a new series of art activities for elementary pupils in January. On Jan. 5, an art workshop will be conducted for free for the elementary pupils of the Holy Child Catholic School in Tondo, Manila, from 8 a.m.-12 nn. Fine arts professor Deon Nacario of the University of Santo Tomas will facilitate the workshop. Faber-Castell art materials will be available to art students, parents and elementary pupils of the school on Jan. 9-11. Elementary pupils interested to learn about art are also invited to join the Little Masters Club. Call 361-7391 to 92.

Unlike fruitcake,
this will most likely be consumed
before its expiry date.

This GIFT CERTIFICATE
entitles you to a case of
San Miguel Beer in cans
(24 pcs).
PLEASE PRESENT WHEN CLAIMING



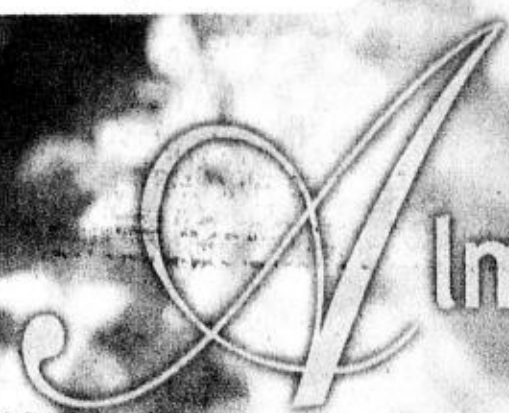
GC Redemption Period is from
November 20, 2001 - March 15, 2002

The SMB Gift Certificates, now available to be given away
for Christmas. Easily redeemable, very much appreciated,
and guaranteed to actually be consumed by the recipient.
Available in leading supermarkets nationwide.

SMB
Nandito
ang
sarap!



SMART IDD

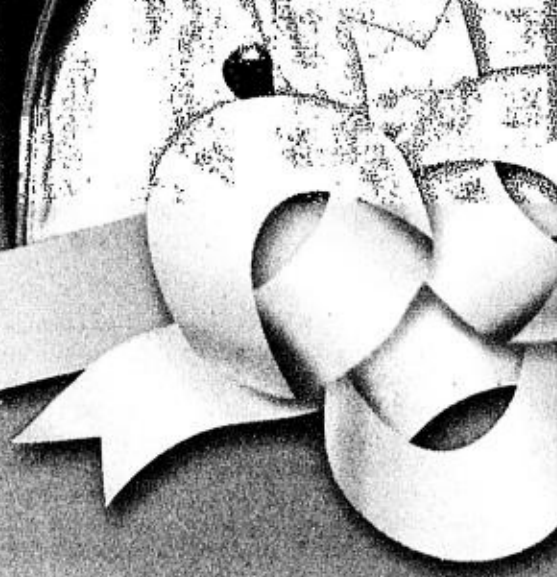


Almost home for Christmas.



MANILA
8:30 AM

CHICAGO
6:30 PM



Even if Christmas finds you miles apart,
experience a closeness that's almost like
being together. All it takes is a SMART IDD call.

Just dial + • Country Code • Area Code • Party's Number • Send

For SMART GSM celfones only. Applicable to over 150 calling destinations.

SMART IDD

40¢

a minute

Simply Amazing!